THE CRIMINAL STATISTICS BENGAL,

AS APPEARING FROM THE OFFICIAL REPORTS BETWEEN 1823 AND 1843,

AT INTERVALS OF TEN YEARS EACH.

BY

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"ANY IMPROVEMENTS TO BE REAL AND LASTING MUST BE FOUNDED ON EXPERIENCE."

CALCUTTA:

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1847.

DEDICATED

BY PERMISSION,

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARL OF AUCKLAND,

&c. &c. &c.

LATE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA,

IN HONORABLE RECOLLECTION

ENDEAVORS HE MADE TO EFFECT

A REFORM IN THE POLICE OF THE COUNTRY

OVER WHICH HE RULED,

THAT SHOULD PROTECT AND SECURE THE WELFARE

OF ITS PEOPLE

IN ALL CLASSES AND CONDITIONS OF LIFE

BY HIS FAITHFUL,

AND RESPECTFULLY OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

CALCUTTA, AUGUST, 1847.

PREFACE.

In the absence of any systematised publication, that would afford a comprehensive view of the state of crime in Bengal, the only information respecting which is distributed amongst voluminous official records, difficult of access, and the returns forming them even at the best being often imperfect and of but doubtful accuracy, the present work was attempted to bring together in an uniformly arranged form whatever appeared the most accurate and satisfactory, to show how far the condition of the country, in this important branch of its jurisprudence was improving or otherwise. Those who know the difficulty of collecting, and classifying statistical information, of any kind, will appreciate the labor that these tables, and the conclusions attempted to be drawn from them, must have cost; especially when performed in the vicissitudes and changes of an Indian life, interrupted by frequent removals consequent on the necessity of seeking, by other pursuits, the means of living, by the troubles and misfortunes incidental to our nature, by professional disappointments, and not unfrequently also by sickness of a trying and severe description: and they will not, therefore, be surprised at its having been longer in hand than was, at first expected, even although assisted by the ready and kind access afforded to such official documents as the author had occasion to search wherever he applied; for which he takes this opportunity of returning thanks especially to Mr. F. J. Halliday, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, who from first to last has invariably acceded to all his requests for that purpose.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

MANY points for consideration occur in taking a review of the state of crime in any country; as each nation must necessarily, from the natural variations of society occurring in different parts of the globe, and the peculiarities occasioned by their social habits, have some crimes incidental to itself, or some which shall be deemed trivial in one country, but heinous in another; and this must be more particularly the case in a state of society such as is found in Bengal, where the habits and prejudices of the followers of Mahomed elevate to crimes such violations of social compacts as give rise only in England to civil actions; and where the divisions of caste amongst Hindoos would render some classes of the people, in the sacred character of their persons, incapable of crime, or rather would free them from subjection to its penalties. Our calendar here too, comprises crimes which the more advanced moral education and increased civilization of Europe have not contemplated; such are,—thuggee, child-stealing for sale into slavery, or education for the grossest purposes, traffic in slaves, and aiding or abetting suttee: or which are only to be found in a disorganized state of society, and under an inefficient police, rendered still less effective from a want of all municipal combination and public spirit in the people, such as affrays and dakoitee. This last especially must have the effect of adding greatly to the number of offenders concerned in criminal proceedings, as gangs for this purpose not unfrequently consist of two or three hundred individuals, whose proceedings are openly and systematically conducted for objects of plunder; a state of things only to be met with in Europe for political purposes, and even there not carried on for any length of period, except in a very few instances on record. In Eu-

ropean States also we never find so many fictitious cases as the calendars of India exhibit; where the Criminal Court is often made the scene of cases, the basis and sole grounds of which are to be found in a temporary gratification of private malice, or family feud.

Vast however as is the proportion of offenders, relatively to the population in Bengal, as compared with that in Europe, it is a fact but too well known, that many crimes never reach the Magistrate's Court, but are suppressed by the sufferers, or by the associates of the offenders, should they have been actually apprehended. Another source of such suppressions is to be found in the more than usual trouble consequent on an attendance on the Courts, both from their distance, and the great delay attending proceedings. There is no doubt that the trouble and expense of prosecution operates to a great extent in lessening the apparent amount of crime in all countries, but where justice is brought within the reach of each individual, and where a Magistrate's duties are limited to a circle of twenty-five square miles, fewer crimes escape public notice than in a country like this, where the magisterial jurisdiction averages four thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven square miles.

In reviewing therefore the extent and state of crimes in Bengal, as exhibited by the public records, which have been necessarily taken as a data for the present work, allowance might be expected for such grounds of discrepancy; but it is utterly impossible to correct inaccuracies the extent whereof would be differently estimated by divers individuals.

Similar objections may be taken by many, to the scale of population which has been adopted; for while in Europe the census has been made with the greatest care, and every means adopted to secure undoubted accuracy; carelessness and want of interest in the subject, requiring, as it does, a peculiar turn of mind, have combined with local causes, to throw considerable doubts on the official documents hitherto at disposal for estimating the number of inhabitants in Bengal. This is yet more obstructed by the unwillingness among natives of this country generally, to expose the number and condition of the female members of their families; the fear too of increasing the means of extortion or oppression in obtaining such reports through the darogahs, also operates to confine some of the magistrates to mere

estimates in making returns of this nature. Hence doubtless, the stated population may be deemed under that actually existing in Bengal. But when we consider the probability of this being the case, and draw a comparison with an unquestionable under estimate of the number of offenders, we may come to the conclusion, that the general proportions, as exhibited in the statements, are accurate in their conclusions, however apparently defective, in detailed parts.

With reference to the population also, some will probably raise objections to the small seeming increase between the two periods offered to view, since in England it is found to increase in the ratio of one per cent annually. It seems reasonable however to suppose, that the ratio of increase is lessened considerably by the extraordinary visitations of Providence, so frequently occurring in Bengal, and depopulating whole tracts of country, by fatal sicknesses, by inundations, by destruction of crops, rendering the produce that is gathered unwholesome, and so forth; to which may be added the fact, that few natives are found to bring up large families, from the casualties affecting both women and children, as has been recently shewn, being so much greater than in Europe: causes that may fairly be supposed to keep down the population to nearly a parallel.

Whilst on this subject, it may be as well to detail the data on which the estimates of population in the statements which occur in this work have been obtained. The basis of the population in the period commencing with 1823, is the estimate published in the Appendix of the recent work by Montgomery Martin, declared to have been made in the year 1822, with such alterations as were necessary from the known transfer of thannahs from one district to another, and a slight correction, where it appeared called for, from the statistical reports prepared with so much pains by Dr. Buchanan. The population of the present time is taken from the reports of the Magistrates, made in reply to a call from the late Superintendent of Police in 1838, with a slight alteration, where known inaccuracy, arising apparently from clerical accident, seemed to call for correction.

In the statements of crime, it will be observed that the French mode of classification has been adopted, by dividing crimes into such as are against the person, and such as are against property; some writers have refined upon this,

by introducing a subdivision of the first class to separate those that are purely personal from those against both person and property, but these first are so very few, that such a particular distinction is deemed unnecessary, since small indeed is the number of crimes so totally unconnected with attacks on property as to demand a separate head; even assaults, affrays, &c, are mostly resulting from some connexion with property, or disputes regarding it. A third division in these statements is made to comprise all offences, misdemeanors, and so forth, hardly amounting to crimes, though holding a place in the Criminal Department of our jurisdiction.

With regard to the extent of crime, as exhibited in any single year, it is unnecessary to make many observations, as a reference to the first two statements furnished, will at once shew, that to found any theory on such individual reports, would be frequently fallacious, from the vast discrepancies which occasionally appear both in the number of cases and of offenders, and still more in the proportion of convictions; arising from various adventitious causes, having only temporary foundation; save therefore when any progressive increase or decrease of crime occurs as deserving of particular notice, the chief importance of the remarks will be confined to the averages of four years each, which it is conceived will afford conclusive, and accurate subject for consideration.

It appears that at the period alluded to, the whole of the Bengal Presidency was, inclusive of about forty thousand square miles of absolute and impenetrable jungle, calculated to contain one hundred and fifty-four thousand four hundred and fifty-three square miles, inhabited, according to the estimates of the day, by thirty-seven million nine hundred and eighteen thousand, seven hundred and sixty-five persons, or on a fair computation, about two hundred and forty-six to each square mile—a density of population which must greatly contribute to the extension of crime; since the closer a people are drawn together in masses, the greater are the opportunities and temptations to the commission of offences, and the more uncertain becomes the means usually adopted for detection; besides which, the more nearly a people are confined together, the greater necessarily becomes the inducement to, and opportunities for, the indulgence in those debaucheries and vices which lead

to crime, especially amongst a people restrained by so few moral ties, and bound by so few principles of virtue, as in benighted India. It will cease therefore to excite wonder, that the proportion of offenders should exceed those in Europe, when we take these points into our maturer consideration, and refer to the fact, that the population of the principal states in Europe is in the following ratio to the square mile—

Great Britain, ...	199
France, ...	158
Austria, ...	121
Prussia, ...	129

So that it is evident, that where moral restraints are the least, the food for crime is likewise the greatest; and this independently too of the yet more important consideration, that the claims made by the denser population on the land, are necessarily so much the greater; and that, even despite of the exceedingly productive nature of the soil in Bengal, any fluctuation of the crops in particular districts, by partial failure or by other accidents to which they are so subject, must be more materially felt, and have much more serious and extensive effect on a people so thickly placed, than in a country where they are less numerous.

Such are some of the many causes, which add weight to our magistrates' calendars, and which serve to render a greater, instead of a less, efficiency in our Police legislation of the utmost importance. It will, in the progress of this work, be an object to view the several districts individually, and we shall then find that fifteen out of twenty, exceed the average amount of population, and that in only six, does it equal, or fall short of the proportion in Great Britain, and in the majority of the six, the proportion of crime falls far below the average of the whole.

We must not, however, be guided altogether by the apparent extent of crime as appearing in the reports immediately from each district, as many of the offences committed are perpetrated by wandering gangs; and it is well known to all, who have experience in the criminal proceed-

ings of Bengal, that few delinquents commit crimes in the district or neighbourhood where they reside, indeed it is notorious that many villages are inhabited solely by the most desperate characters, but that no part of the country is so free from crimes, or so quiet as the neighbourhood of such villages; it being their object to have a place of refuge after committing their depredations, where their families may reside, and where they themselves may be able to maintain the character, and appearance of respectable, well conducted peasants, or farmers, often, by such means, becoming bail for each other, and thus securing escape from justice, or an exemption from being placed on the list of budmashes, or notoriously bad characters.

CHAPTER II.

Analysis of Crime and Criminals from 1823 *to* 1826, *with their relative proportions to population, &c. in Patna, Behar, Sarun, Shahabad, Poorneah. Bhagulpore, Monghyr, Tirhoot, Dinajpore, Malda, Rungpore, Rajshuhaee. Bugoorah, Moorshedabad, and Beerbhoom.*

With the foregoing preliminaries, the first statement is brought to the reader's notice, as a comparative view of crimes, &c. from 1823 to 1826 inclusive, in the North-western Division of Bengal, comprising fifteen districts.

A Comparative view of Crimes, &c. in Bengal.

Year	District	Extent. Square miles.	Extent. Population.	Extent. Population per square mile.	Crimes. Cases. Against the person.	Crimes. Cases. Against property.	Crimes. Cases. Total	Crimes. Concerned.	Crimes. Convictions, &c.	Offences, &c. Cases.	Offences, &c. Concerned.	Offences, &c. Convictions.	Total. Cases.	Total. Concerned.	Total. Convictions	Total. Proportion of offenders to population, being *one* in
1823	Patna,	667	255,700	383.36	8	342	350	639	81	1,971	3,430	1,012	2,321	4,069	1,093	63
	Behar,	5,235	1,340,610	256 08	10	1,259	1,269	2,918	370	1,178	2,179	747	2,447	5,097	1,117	263
	Sarun and Champaran,	5.760	1,464,275	254 21	31	996	1,027	1,911	250	1,011	2,144	951	2,038	4,055	1,201	361
	Shahabad,	4,650	908,850	195 44	11	626	637	1,410	323	985	1,990	749	1,622	3,400	1,072	267
	Poorneah,	7,460	1,362,165	182.59	15	811	826	1,353	69	5,110	7,001	2,302	5,936	8,354	2,371	163
	Bhagulpore,	5 594	1,113,500	199 05	10	206	216	312	25	511	1 345	757	727	1,657	782	672
	Monghyr,	2 344	571,200	243 68	4	17	21	41	11	474	768	492	495	809	503	706
	Tirhoot,	7,732	1,697 700	219 56	6	2,386	2,392	4,096	286	1,267	2,294	820	3,659	6,390	1,106	266
	Dinajpore,	4,348	1,694,260	389 66	7	875	882	2,121	50	1,091	2 520	1,168	1,973	4,641	1,218	365
	Malda,	1,572	647,160	411 68	—	183	183	291	6	554	1,308	424	737	1,599	430	404
	Rungpore,	7,856	1,340,350	170.61	13	1,819	1,832	4,251	44	587	2 036	929	2 419	6,287	973	213
	Rajshuhaee and Pubna,	3 191	2,340 290	733.40	26	83	109	931	446	530	1,431	433	639	2,362	879	991
	Bugoorah,	1 607	631,770	393 13	6	17	23	131	37	169	500	42	192	631	79	1.001
	Moorshedabad.	1,870	762,690	407 85	5	307	312	782	173	725	1 313	502	1,037	2,095	675	364
	Beerbhoom,	3 870	1,267,065	327 40	4	181	185	246	98	1,417	3,445	1,855	1,602	3,691	1,953	343
		63,756	17,397,585	272.87	156	10,108	10,264	21,433	2 269	17,580	33,704	13,183	27,844	55,137	15,452	316
1824	Patna,	..	..	..	4	270	274	560	222	1.724	2 999	1.347	1,998	3,559	1,569	72
	Behar,	..	..	..	23	507	530	1.913	389	946	1,751	792.	1,476	3,664	1,181	366
	Sarun and Champaran.	..	..	..	29	435	464	1,184	698	727	1,542	794	1,191	2,726	1,492	537
	Shahabad,	..	..	..	27	274	301	1 261	687	1,273	2,573	1,104	1,574	3,834	1,791	237
	Poorneah,	..	..	..	11	336	347	1,945	384	4,407	6,038	3,444	4,754	6,983	3,828	195
	Bhagulpore,	..	..	..	10	366	376	808	214	780	2,054	928	1,156	2,862	1,142	389
	Monghyr,	..	..	..	4	17	21	41	11	474	768	492	495	809	503	706
	Tirhoot,	..	..	..	18	567	585	1,461	439	3,709	6,715	2,732	4,294	8,176	3,171	208
	Dinajpore,	..	..	..	6	426	432	980	303	815	1,984	1,124	1,247	2,964	1 427	571
	Malda.	..	..	..	—	183	183	291	6	554	1,308	424	737	1,599	430	405
	Rungpore,	..	..	..	6	302	308	638	282	787	2,630	1,300	1,095	3,268	1,582	407
	Rajshuhaee and Pubna,	..	..	..	26	83	109	931	446	530	1,431	433	639	2,362	879	991
	Bugoorah,	..	..	..	2	96	98	246	52	153	452	222	251	698	274	905
	Moorshedabad,	..	..	..	12	123	135	623	242	722	1,307	447	857	1,930	689	395
	Beerbhoom,	..	..	..	12	158	170	332	224	980	2,382	1,096	1,150	2,714	1,320	467
					190	4,143	4,333	13,214	4,599	18,581	35,934	16,679	22,914	49,148	21,278	354

A Comparative view of Crimes. &c. in Bengal.

		Extent.			Crimes.					Offences, &c.			Total.			
					Cases.											
		Square mile.	Population	Population per square mile.	Against the person.	Against property.	Total.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Proportion of offenders to population, being *one* in
1825	Patna,	667	255,700	383.36	10	318	328	692	398	1,188	2,067	1,137	1,516	2,759	1,535	93
	Behar,	5,235	1,340,610	256.08	23	1,301	1,324	3,395	793	1,205	2,326	1,203	2,529	5,721	1,996	234
	Sarun and Champaran,	5,760	1,464,275	254.21	68	1,087	1,155	2,524	1,018	846	1,749	856	2,001	4,273	1,874	348
	Shahabad,	4,650	908,850	195.44	45	618	663	1,929	971	1,251	2,284	1,002	1,914	4,213	1,973	215
	Poorneah,	7,460	1,362,165	182.59	42	274	316	1,166	368	1,460	2,612	1,528	1,776	3,778	1,896	361
	Bhagulpore,	5,594	1,113,500	199.05	10	174	184	506	248	262	590	198	446	1,096	446	1,016
	Monghyr,	2,344	571,200	243 68	24	38	62	198	92	462	782	488	524	980	580	583
	Tirhoot,	7,732	1,697,700	219.56	25	1,444	1,469	3,173	717	3,271	5,473	2,507	4,740	8,646	3,224	196
	Dinajpore,	4,348	1,694,260	389.66	6	390	396	882	376	2,254	5,028	1,464	2,650	5,910	1,840	287
	Malda,	1,572	647,160	411.68	10	66	76	588	298	522	1,316	432	598	1,904	730	339
	Rungpore,	7,856	1,340,350	170 61	8	66	74	192	140	434	1,234	504	508	1,426	644	939
	Rajshuhaee, and Pubna,	3,191	2,340,290	733.40	32	78	110	820	406	526	1,486	656	636	2,306	1,062	1,015
	Bugoorah,	1,607	631,770	393.13	6	66	72	776	148	124	526	48	196	1,302	196	485
	Moorshedabad,	1,870	762,690	407.85	20	87	107	666	200	498	890	328	605	1,556	528	490
	Beerbhoom,	3,870	1,267,065	327.40	12	78	90	178	166	930	2,200	940	1,020	2,378	1,106	533
		63,756	17,397,585	272.87	341	6,085	6,426	17,685	6,389	15,233	30,563	13,291	21,659	48,248	19,630	361
1826	Patna,				9	428	437	731	478	996	1,730	1,011	1,433	2,461	1,489	104
	Behar,				31	1,477	1,508	3,869	1,005	1,347	2,408	1,092	2,855	6,277	2,097	214
	Sarun and Champaran,				31	654	685	1,389	575	633	1,386	600	1,318	2,775	1 175	528
	Shahabad,				29	640	669	2,259	1,019	1,249	2,772	1,172	1,918	5,031	2,191	181
	Poorneab,				12	615	627	1,242	280	2,505	2,851	1,212	3,132	4.093	1,492	333
	Bhagulpore,				8	112	120	218	140	382	1,107	291	502	1,325	431	840
	Monghyr,				4	108	112	242	125	319	486	248	431	728	373	785
	Tirhoot,				27	1,170	1,197	2,633	297	2,000	4.106	1,828	3,197	6,739	2,125	252
	Dinajpore,				14	1,142	1,156	2,220	844	2,112	5,082	2,021	3,268	7,302	2,865	232
	Malda,				4	125	129	290	199	548	1,216	390	677	1,506	589	429
	Rungpore,				7	308	315	1,110	305	342	1,464	351	657	2,574	656	521
	Rajshuhaee and Fubna,				21	87	108	1,042	388	532	1,377	308	640	2,419	696	967
	Bugoorah,				15	90	105	403	127	400	1,021	283	505	1,424	410	444
	Moorshedabad,				13	142	155	593	267	608	1,117	476	763	1,710	743	446
	Beerbhoom,				9	139	148	252	163	1,070	2,676	1,297	1,218	2,928	1,460	433
					234	7,237	7,471	18,493	6,212	15,043	30.799	12.580	22,514	49,292	18,792	533

Total amount of Crimes in Bengal during Four Years.

	Extent.			Crimes.					Offences, &c.			Total.			
				Cases.											
	Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Against the person.	Against property.	Total.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Proportion of offenders to population, being, *one* in
Patna,	667	255,700	383.36	31	1,358	1,389	2,622	1,179	5,879	10,226	4,507	7,268	12,848	5,686	
Behar,	5.235	1,340,610	256.08	87	4,544	4,631	12,095	2,557	4,676	8,664	3,834	9,307	20,759	6,391	
Sarun and Champaran,	5,760	1,464,275	254.21	159	3,172	3,331	7,008	2,541	3,217	6,821	3,201	65,48	13,829	5,742	
Shahabad,	4,650	908,850	195.44	112	2,158	2,270	6,859	3,000	4,758	9,619	4,027	7,028	16,478	7,027	
Poorneah,	7,460	1,362,165	182.59	80	2,036	2,116	5,706	1,101	13,482	18.502	8,486	15,598	24,208	9,587	
Bhagulpore,	5,594	1,113,500	199.05	38	858	896	1,844	627	1,935	5,096	2,174	2,831	6,940	2,801	
Monghyr,	2,344	571,200	243.68	36	180	216	522	239	1,729	2,804	1,720	1,945	3,326	1,959	
Tirhoot,	7,732	1,697,700	219.56	76	5,567	5,643	11,363	1,739	10,247	18,588	7,887	15,890	29,951	9,626	
Dinajpore,	4,348	1,694.260	389.66	33	2,833	2,866	6,203	1,573	6,272	14,614	5,777	9,138	20,817	7,350	
Malda,	1,572	647,160	411.68	14	557	571	1,460	509	2,178	5,148	1,670	2,749	6,608	2,179	
Rungpore,	7,856	1,340,350	170.61	34	2,495	2,529	6,191	771	2,150	7,364	3,084	4,679	13,555	3,855	
Rajshahaee, and Pubna,	3,191	2,340,290	733.40	105	331	436	3,724	1,686	2,118	5,725	1,830	2,554	9,449	3,516	
Bugoorah,	1,607	631,770	393.13	29	269	298	1,556	364	846	2,499	595	1,144	4,055	959	
Moorshedabad,	1,870	762.690	407.85	50	659	709	2,664	882	2,553	4,627	1,753	3,262	7,291	2,635	
Bheerbhoom,	3,870	1,267,065	327 40	37	556	593	1,008	651	4,397	10,703	5,188	4,990	11,711	5,839	
	63,756	17,397,585	272.87	921	27,573	28,494	70,825	19,419	66,437	131,000	55,733	94,931	201,825	74,152	

Average of Four Years.

	Against the person.	Against property.	Total.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Offences Cases.	Offences Concerned.	Offences Convictions.	Total Cases.	Total Concerned.	Total Convictions.	Proportion of offenders to population, being, *one* in
Patna,	8	339	347	655	295	1,470	2,556	1,127	1,817	3,211	1,422	80
Behar,	22	1,136	1,158	3,024	639	1,169	2,166	959	2,327	5,190	1,598	258
Sarun and Champaran,	40	793	833	1.752	635	804	1,705	800	1,637	3,457	1,435	424
Shahabad,	28	539	567	1,715	750	1,189	2,405	1,007	1,756	4,120	1,757	221
Poorneah,	20	509	529	1,426	275	3,371	4,625	2,122	3,900	6,051	2,396	225
Bhagulpore,	10	214	224	461	157	484	1,274	543	708	1,735	700	642
Monghyr,	9	45	54	130	60	432	701	430	486	831	490	687
Tirhoot,	19	1,392	1,411	2,841	435	2,562	4,647	1,972	3,973	7,488	2,407	227
Dinajpore,	8	708	716	1,551	393	1,568	3,654	1,444	2,284	5,205	1,837	326
Malda,	3	140	143	365	127	545	1,287	417	688	1,652	544	392
Rungpore,	9	624	633	1,548	193	538	1,841	771	1,171	3,389	964	396
Rajshahaee, and Pubna,	26	83	109	931	422	529	1,431	457	638	2,362	879	991
Bugoorah,	7	67	74	389	91	211	625	149	285	1,014	240	623
Moorshedabad,	12	165	177	666	220	638	1,157	438	815	1,823	658	419
Beerbhoom,	9	139	148	252	163	1,099	2,676	1,297	1,247	2,928	1,460	433
	230	6.893	7.123	17,706	4,855	16,609	32,750	13,933	23,733	59,456	18,538	345

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Patna.—To proceed with the examination of the several districts; the first on the statement is found to be by far the worst, shewing an extent of crime amounting to an average of one offender in every eighty inhabitants; yet bad as this may appear, it shews also a regular progressively improving decrease, during the four years, commencing with one in sixty-three, and terminating with one in one hundred and five, and, from its regularity, giving promise of a better state of things in after years; it is to be observed however, that this is only found to be the case with the minor offences, since although crimes against the person have remained nearly stationary, those of a heinous nature against property have been on the increase in the ratio of about twenty-five per cent. in the number of cases, and above fourteen per cent. in the number of offenders. Against the increasing evil in this branch of the statement, we have the best evidence of improved jurisdiction, in the fact, that convictions have increased from eighty-one out of six hundred and thirty-nine to four hundred and seventy-eight out of seven hundred and thirty-one, or in the ratio of from nearly thirteen per cent. to sixty-five and a half per cent., leaving the average about forty-six per cent., or nearly sixteen per cent. in this department, above the general average of the whole number of the districts. It further appears that the number of persons concerned in each case is in the proportion of 1.88, whilst the convictions do not amount to one for each case, bearing only the ratio of .85.

Turning to the offences, it will be found, that, there, an improvement has indeed occurred, alike in the number of cases, the number of culprits, and the proportion of convictions; these last being in 1823 only twenty-nine per cent., whilst in 1826 they reached fifty-eight per cent. the average being about forty-four per cent. or somewhat above that generally found through Bengal: the parties to each case were 1.74.

The range of cases of every description therefore, will be found to be an improvement from two thousand three hundred and twenty-one in 1823 to one thousand four hundred and thirty-three in 1826, a decrease of eight hundred and eighty-eight; whilst convictions, which in 1823 were only twenty-six and three quarters per cent. or four and a half below the general average of the year, had risen to sixty per cent. or nearly sixteen above the general average:

shewing however for the four years a result of one thousand eight hundred and seventeen cases per annum, with one thousand four hundred and twenty-two convictions, or as one to .78; whilst the parties concerned appear to be in each case 1.76; and the general ratio of convictions is to those concerned, as forty-four and a quarter per cent. or 5.76 above the general average of the Presidency: whence we find that, whilst Patna is so decidedly the worst district, as regards the amount of crimes, no pains had been spared towards its improvement, or its judicial results would be less favorable. The proportion crimes bore to the whole offences, had been nineteen per cent. in the cases, and twenty-four per cent. in persons.

Behar,—although adjoining Patna, does not shew nearly so large a proportion of offenders; at the same time, however, the proportion of those concerned in crimes is much larger, as compared with the parties to mere offences, whilst the proportion of convictions is considerably less; in extent of crime this zillah stood ninth in the ladder of ascent. The average proportion of offenders to the inhabitants, appears to have been one in two hundred and fifty-eight, but unlike its neighbour just noticed, this had increased during the period now under review, having been in the first year one in two hundred and sixty-three; falling in 1824, as low as one in three hundred and sixty-one inhabitants, whilst in 1826, it was as high as one in two hundred and fourteen. The predominance, however, of heinous crimes is fearful, and equalled only in five other zillahs, being on the average of the four years, one thousand one hundred and fifty-eight cases of such crimes to one thousand one hundred and sixty-nine of milder offences, or nearly fifty-one per cent. of the whole, whilst the proportion in the whole Presidency is only 26.63 per cent.; the last year of the series is moreover the worst, being as high as nearly fifty-three per cent: the delinquents too, concerned in heinous crimes, bear a proportion of 39.61 per cent. above those concerned in lesser offences. With respect to the number of convictions, &c. for heinous crimes, it will be observed that they have considerably increased, being in 1823, only three hundred and seventy, whilst in 1826 they amounted to one thousand and five; the average per centage of criminals convicted amounting, in the four years, to only twenty-one per cent. so that nearly four-fifths escaped the just reward of their crimes. From this

division of the statement we find also that the average parties concerned in each crime were 2.60; whilst the proportion convicted was only .55, shewing a disposition to combination for such acts greater than in the district of Patna; whence doubtless, arises one cause of the facility afforded to escape, and the small number convicted. The number of offences, as already shewn, was less than that of crimes, as was also the number of parties concerned therein, but they also were on the increase, though in a lesser degree than more heinous offenders; the convictions however, had improved in proportion during these four years, having been in 1823, thirty-four per cent. whilst in 1826, they were forty-five per cent. the average being forty-four. The parties to each offence it appears were 2.26.

The general range of cases of all kinds, was from two thousand four hundred and forty-seven in 1823, to two thousand eight hundred and fifty-five in 1826; and of convictions, from above twenty-seven per cent. in the former year to thirty-three and a quarter per cent. in the latter; the average being 30.79; bearing a proportion to the cases of .70 to each case; this result is, as will be seen, more than eight per cent. below that of the Presidency generally,—and is therefore to be deprecated the more, as the proportion of crime was no less than fifty-two per cent. in excess, and as has been shewn, the predominant tendency to crimes of magnitude was so great, bearing to the whole in proportion of cases nearly fifty and a three-quarters per cent. and in parties concerned fifty-eight and a quarter per cent.

Sarun with Champarun,—this appears one of the fair average districts in extent of crime, being a ratio of offenders of one only in four hundred and twenty-four inhabitants, keeping besides, a tolerably even course through the four years, alternating from under four hundred to above five hundred. The crimes against the person were more numerous however, than in any other district in this division, being an average of forty per annum, although in 1825 they rose to sixty-eight; those of a heinous nature generally, alternating from one thousand and twenty-seven in 1823, and one thousand one hundred and fifty-five in 1825, to four hundred and sixty-four in 1824, and six hundred and eighty-five in 1826, being an average in the two first years of the period, of seven hundred and forty-three per annum, and in the last

two years of nine hundred, or an increase of one hundred and seventy-seven, equalling twenty-four per cent.; whilst the average shews the annual number of cases to have been eight hundred and thirty-three. In the number of offenders too, concerned in such crimes, we find, on a comparison of the same years, an increase equal to twenty-six per cent. they amounting in 1823 and 1824 to three thousand and ninety-five, and in 1825 and 1826 to three thousand nine hundred and thirteen, or annually an addition of four hundred and nine individuals, the average being one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two per annum; it is worthy of note, however, that these in the last year of the series, viz. 1826, were three hundred and sixty-three below this average; and it is satisfactory to observe the improvement in the ratio of convictions, these amounting in 1823 to only thirteen per cent, whilst in 1826, they were forty-three per cent., and in one year, 1824, fifty-nine per cent., the average of the whole being thirty-six per cent, or four and a half above the general average; it appears too, that the number of individuals to each offence was on an average 2.10, whilst the convictions in each case were 0.73.

The minor offences shew a considerable progressive decrease from one thousand and eleven cases in 1823, to six hundred and thirty-three in 1826, being in the ratio of thirty-seven per cent.; the average exhibiting eight hundred and four per annum, and the number concerned as having fallen thirty-four per cent. during these four years, the convictions among them remaining nearly stationary at above forty-six per cent., or three per cent. above the average of the Presidency generally; the parties to each offence averaged 2.12, and the convictions nearly one each, the former amounting to eight hundred and four, whilst the latter were eight hundred per annum.

The results of cases of every description exhibiting an improvement from two thousand and thirty-eight in 1823, to one thousand three hundred and eighteen in 1826; a decrease, as will appear from reference to the statement, of five hundred and thirty-four per annum: whilst convictions which in 1823 were twenty-nine per cent. rose in 1826 to forty-two per cent., the average being during the four years of 41.51 per cent.,—2.99 above the Bengal average. The parties to each case averaged 2.11; and the proportion of heinous crimes amounted in cases to fifty and three quarters per cent. and in the num-

ber of persons to the same. The whole bearing out the position originally stated, that this was a fair average district during the period of review.

SHAHABAD.—The next in order on the list is among the worst class in regard to crime, having been on an average one offender to every two hundred and twenty-one inhabitants, and progressively getting worse during the period under remark; commencing with one in two hundred and sixty-seven, and ending in 1826 with one in one hundred and eighty-one, a ratio of about thirty per cent.; this has reference alike to all descriptions of cases. The number of cases however of a serious nature taken generally, appear to have been nearly stationary, except in the year 1824, when an extraordinary decrease occurred; there having been only three hundred and one cases against six hundred and thirty-seven in the previous, and six hundred and sixty-three in the following years; amongst these, the crimes against the person were greater in proportion, than in most other districts, increasing between 1823 and 1825 from eleven to forty-five, or in ratio of from 1.75 per cent. to 7.28 per cent., the average of the whole four years being twenty-eight annually, or about 5.19 per cent. As a redeeming feature in the increase of heinous crimes, we find a considerable improvement in the convictions, progressing from three hundred and twenty-three out of one thousand four hundred and ten offenders in 1823, to one thousand and nineteen out of two thousand two hundred and fifty-nine in 1826, having been from nearly twenty-three to above forty-five per cent.; making an average of seven hundred and fifty out of one thousand seven hundred and fifteen offenders, and equalling nearly forty-four per cent., or almost fourteen per cent. above the general average of Bengal; the average number of persons concerned in each case too, appears to have amounted to 3.02, a greater number than we have yet seen in the previous three districts, whilst the convictions were 1.32 to each case.

In the offences there was found an increase from nine hundred and eighty-five cases, in 1823, to one thousand two hundred and forty-nine in 1826; and from one thousand nine hundred and ninety in the former year, to two thousand seven hundred and seventy-two in the latter, in the offenders, the annual average being two thousand four hundred and five. The convictions in 1823. were seven hundred and forty-nine, or thirty-eight per cent. against one thou-

sand one hundred and seventy-two, or forty-two per cent. in 1826, the average of four years having been above forty-one per cent.; equalling 0.84 in each case, whilst the parties concerned amounted to 2.06.

Viewing the general state of all descriptions of cases in Shahabad, it will be found that an increase arose from one thousand six hundred and twenty-two in 1823, to one thousand nine hundred and eighteen in 1826, equal to seventy-four cases annually, or eighteen per cent.; whilst convictions, which were in 1823, thirty-four per cent. rose in 1826 to forty-three per cent.—this last being nearly two per cent. above the average of the year, throughout the country;—shewing the convicted parties in 1823 as 0.72, and in 1826 as 1.14 in each case, the result of the four years averaging one conviction whilst the parties were 2.32 to each case, and the general ratio of convictions to those concerned as 42.67 per cent. or full four per cent. above the general proportion of the whole of the districts; the proportion of heinous offenders having been forty-one per cent. and of such cases thirty-two per cent.; this shews fully the bad state of this zillah, though under an equally increasing activity as has been exhibited in the progressive rise in convictions during this four years future improvement might be hoped for.

POORNEAH—too, is one of the worst class of districts, like the majority of those in the Province of Behar, the average of offenders being one in two hundred and twenty-five inhabitants; but with a progressive improvement from one in one-hundred and sixty-three in 1823, to one in three hundred and thirty-three in 1826, giving fair prospect of continued decrease, although the last year shews an increase of some extent in the more serious offences over its two predecessors. Through three years, viz. 1823, 1824, and 1826, the number of crimes against the person is nearly alike; but in 1825, in this district, as well as in the other zillahs of the Behar Province, the number increased vastly, amounting indeed to more than the whole occurring in the other three years put together, this is worthy of notice, as it affected the whole province, but at this distance of time the local circumstances in which it doubtless had its origin, appear to have passed out of recollection. A trifling decrease occurred in the number of offenders concerned in heinous crimes; whilst convictions decidedly amended, although in this respect there

was still, at the close of the four years, vast room for improvement, since they only stood as follows,

	Convictions.	Offenders.		Per cent.
1823	— 69	— 1,353	=	5.19
1824	— 384	— 1,945	=	19.74
1825	— 368	— 1,166	=	31.56
1826	— 280	— 1,242	=	22.54

the average being about nineteen per cent., not quite two-thirds of the general proportion. It appears, moreover, that the number of persons in each case was 2.69, whilst the convictions amounted to only 0.52.

The offences in this district were more numerous than in any other in the country, exceeding by sixty-nine per cent. the general average, and being twenty-four per cent. above Tirhoot, which was the next most noted for the number of its offences. It will, however, be observed, that both in the number of cases, and in the number of offenders a great improvement had taken place, the former having fallen during the period of four years, fifty-one per cent.; 1823, shewing five thousand one hundred and ten, and 1826, two thousand five hundred and five cases; whilst the latter had fallen off fifty-nine per cent., being seven thousand and one in 1823, and two thousand eight hundred and fifty-one in 1826. The convictions in this branch increased likewise from thirty-three per cent. in 1823, to forty-two per cent. in 1826, the intermediate years, however, were even better than this last, and left the average of the four years nearly forty-six per cent., or about three and a half above the general ratio of the country. The parties to each case averaged 1.37, whilst the convictions were 0.63 in each.

The statement shews in conclusion, an improvement in the number of cases from five thousand nine hundred and thirty-six in 1823, to three thousand one hundred and thirty-two in 1826, being a reduction of forty-seven per cent., whilst in number of offenders, there was a falling off of fifty-one per cent., viz. from eight thousand three hundred and fifty-four, to four thousand and ninety-three in the same years; and convictions, which in 1823 were twenty-eight per cent., rose in 1826 to thirty-six per cent.; the general average being, however, nearly forty per cent., or one and a half above the average of the

whole Presidency, which, though but a small excess, may be deemed fair, considering the evidently bad state of the district as the fifth only in gradation of criminality.

The proportion of convictions to cases was as two thousand three hundred and ninety-six to three thousand nine hundred, or 0.61 to a case, the offenders having been each year six thousand and fifty-one, or about 1.56 to every case; and of heinous cases, there were nearly thirteen and two-thirds per cent. whilst in parties concerned therein the proportion bore as thirteen and a half per cent.

BHAGULPORE.—Is one of the least populous, and at the same time one of the least criminal districts; the one a natural result of the other, for where the population is scattered the opportunities, and temptations to crime, become generally less: here we find the ratio of offenders amounting to only one in six hundred and forty-two inhabitants; the two last years too showing a considerable improvement over the two former ones, for it will be found that whilst the ratio in 1823 and 1824 was one in five hundred, in 1825 and 1826 it was one in nine hundred and twenty-eight, and heinous crimes which in the latter period averaged only one hundred and fifty-two, were in the former two hundred and eighty-seven, of which the crimes against the person were but nine annually, although the average of Bengal was twenty-one to each district; the decrease in offenders of a heinous nature is equally worthy of notice, there having been in 1823 three hundred and twelve, and in 1826 two hundred and eighteen, of which latter the convictions were one hundred and forty, about sixty-four per cent., whilst in the former year the convictions were only twenty-five in number, and equalled but eight per cent., the average convictions being thirty-four per cent., or one hundred and fifty-seven out of four hundred and sixty-one; this latter being almost four per cent. beyond the general average of all the districts, the offenders standing in a ratio of 2.07 to each offence, with 0.70 as the proportion of the convicted.

In the minor offences there had been a decrease from five hundred and eleven cases in 1823 to three hundred and eighty-two in 1826, say twenty-five per cent. the parties to which have fallen in the less ratio of eighteen

per cent. from one thousand three hundred and forty-five in the former, to one thousand one hundred and seven in the latter year; on the other hand the proportion of convictions was less by thirty per cent. as appears on comparison of those in 1823, being fifty-six per cent. of the offenders, with those in 1826, amounting to only twenty-six per cent.; the average of the four years was however, a medium of forty-two per cent., the parties to each case having been 2.63, and the convictions 1.12.

On taking a review of the general amount of every description of cases, it will be observed that a decrease had occurred equal to thirty-one per cent. from seven hundred and twenty-seven in 1823 to five hundred and two in 1826, whilst in offenders it had amounted to about twenty per cent. from one thousand six hundred and fifty-seven in 1823 to one thousand three hundred and twenty-five in 1826; the numerical decrease of convictions having been however, in the same time, forty-five per cent. These last amounted in the first year under review, to about forty-seven per cent. but had sank in the last year to thirty-two and a half per cent. shewing, that, but little attention had been paid to the judicial care of a district naturally good, and where the duties of the Magistrate were comparatively small, the average of convictions being, for the four years, seven hundred out of one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five, forming an average of forty per cent. and having been nearly one to each case, in which the parties concerned were as 2.45; heinous crimes bearing the proportion in cases, of thirty-one and a half per cent. and in parties of twenty-six and a half per cent.

Monghyr.—It is necessary to observe with regard to this district, that for want of data, the usual reports for 1824 being wanting, it has been necessary to adopt for that year a repetition of its predecessor, making these two years a trifle above the average of the period under review; between the years 1825 and 1826, however, there will be found an improvement equal to above thirty-four per cent.: it is, like Bhagulpore, of which it is properly speaking a dependency, one of the best districts, as regards extent of crimes, being about forty-three per cent. below the general average, and on the whole affords evidence of improvement; the last year in the series shewing only one offender to seven hundred and eighty-five inhabitants, whilst

the average of the four years was one in six hundred and eighty-seven. Crimes against the person were but few, being, as in Bhagulpore, only nine in each year, whilst those of a heinous nature only average altogether fifty four in each year, which equals no more than one in ten thousand five hundred and fifty-nine inhabitants. These have, however, been greatly increased since 1823, when the cases were only twenty-one, whilst in 1826 they amounted to one hundred and twelve, the offenders in the latter year being two hundred and forty-two, and in the former, forty-one; among these however the proportion of convictions has greatly increased, the first year shewing only about twenty-six per cent. whilst in the last they reached nearly fifty-two per cent. the average of the period in this branch of crime, being, as would appear, forty-six per cent.; nearly sixteen above the ratio of the Presidency. Here too the parties concerned in each case are found to have been 2.40 against 1.11 of convictions.

The offences are shewn to have fallen from four hundred and seventy-four in 1823 to three hundred and nineteen in 1826, a decrease equal to thirty-two per cent; the number of parties too shew a yet greater improvement, having been in 1823, seven hundred and sixty-eight, and in 1826, only four hundred and eighty-six; among whom convictions were in the former year sixty-four per cent. but had fallen off in 1826 to fifty-one per cent.; the average, however, still maintained itself at eighteen per cent. above that of the districts generally, and held at sixty-one per cent. on this class of offenders. The parties to each case were 1.62, and the convictions nearly one.

On criminals generally, there will be found a decrease of ten per cent., and in cases, about thirteen per cent., the convictions ranging from sixty-two per cent. in 1823, to fifty-one in 1826; whilst the result of four years was four hundred and ninety convictions among eight hundred and thirty-one individuals, equalling above fifty-nine per cent., or more than twenty per cent. above the general average of the country; the parties concerned having been in each case 1.71, whilst the convictions were as 1.01 to one; altogether, therefore, this is one of the most satisfactory districts among the whole: since in its population it shews a fair average proportion of two hundred and forty-four in the square mile, whilst its prevailing crimes are of a

mild character, bespeaking a people naturally peaceful, and inoffensive. Its proportion of cases of a heinous nature had been in the four years only eleven per cent., and of the culprits concerned, fifteen and a half per cent.

Tirhoot,—again, is found to be one of the worst districts, and it is hardly to be wondered at, from the great prevalence of drunkenness; in that quarter the offenders amount to one in two hundred and twenty-seven, of nearly an average population. Of these four years, the first and the last offer the most favorable results, the latter being one in two hundred and fifty-two, and the former, one in two hundred and sixty-six; whence crime may be considered at a stand on that ratio. The crimes against the person, amount to nineteen in each year, about three per cent. of the whole in Bengal, and these are chiefly during the last two years, in which time there had occurred fifty-two cases. In other heinous offences, Tirhoot is the worst of all the districts, doubtless arising in a great measure from its position as a border district, yielding shelter to vast hordes of bad characters; these crimes constituting here thirteen per cent. of the whole of the Bengal Presidency; they had too been at a stand nearly the whole of the four years, since on comparing 1823 and 1824 with 1825 and 1826, we find the latter period shewing a decrease of cases of about ten and half per cent. with an increase of offenders to the amount of some four and half per cent. Convictions reached their highest number (seven hundred and seventeen) in 1825, and have been altogether on the increase; the proportion in the two first years, being only thirteen per cent., whilst the last two exhibit seventeen and half per cent: still, however, this is much less than ought to be, not being half of the general average in the Presidency. The number of persons concerned in each case appear to have been 2.01, but the convictions did not amount to more than 0.30 in each case, whence upwards of two-thirds of these crimes must have been committed with entire impunity, or, in other words, eleven offenders escaped to every two that were punished.

Turning to lesser offences, it will be found that these have been on the increase, especially in the number of parties concerned; the last year however, shows a slight improvement on the two preceding it, although still fifty-seven per cent. in number of cases, and seventy-nine per cent. in offen-

ders beyond 1823. The convictions in this latter mentioned year were thirty-five and three-quarters per cent., and in 1826 forty-four and half per cent.; the average of the four years being about forty-two and a half per cent.; equalling that generally found in the country, and being 0.77 to each case, in which 1.85 was the proportion of actors.

In the whole number of cases will be found an improvement from three thousand six hundred and fifty-nine in 1823, to three thousand one hundred and ninety-seven in 1826, the general average, however, being three hundred and fourteen above the first named amount; but on the other hand, the parties concerned have increased from six thousand three hundred and ninety in the first year, to six thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine in the last, the average exceeding considerably both these amounts: the convictions bore the proportion of thirty-one per cent. to which it had risen from seventeen per cent. in the first year of the series; shewing a result of three thousand nine hundred and seventy-three cases, with two thousand four hundred and seven convictions, or in the ratio of one of the former to 0.65 of the latter, being a punishment in the proportion of two in every seven culprits, who were concerned in crime in the ratio of 1.88 to every case. The proportion of heinous crimes was, in cases thirty-five and a half per cent., and in persons concerned, thirty-eight per cent.

From observance of the above facts we arrive at the conclusion, that there was an enormous accession of crimes in 1824 and 1825, which had somewhat subsided, or been subdued in the following year, evidently from improvement in the police arrangements, as it produced so vast an increase in the convictions as to amount to nearly double the proportion in the year that crime was comparatively moderate, and this state of things may lead to the enquiry, whether the increase, so extraordinary as it is in amount during 1824 and 1825, was not affected by the Burmese war, and the favorable change produced by the tranquillity to the country consequent on its termination, and on the capture of Bhurtpore at the same period. It is right however to notice also, that another cause may have partly influenced this increase, inasmuch as during those two years, the district was under the jurisdiction of a firm and active magistrate, Mr. Moore, under whom it is probable, more

crimes were brought to light, and fewer escaped unscathed, than in former, or in subsequent years.

DINAJPORE,—holds a medium rank in extent of crime, being in the average ratio of one offender in three hundred and twenty-six inhabitants; but the two last years of the series exhibit a very vast increase over the average of the two first, which would shew only one offender in four hundred and forty-five, whilst in 1825, they were one in two hundred and eighty-seven, and in 1826 one in two hundred and thirty-two inhabitants; the former year increasing in the proportion of fifty-five per cent., whilst in the latter, it increased to the enormous ratio of ninety-two per cent.; this however is confined to petty offences, the more heinous crimes being nearly equal in the two first and two last years: crimes against the person were but few, the first three years shewing only nineteen, and the last year fourteen; but against this nearly fixed state of such crimes, we have the evidence of improved administration of the laws, in the fact, that whilst in 1823 convictions, for heinous crimes, were only about two and one-third per cent. they had risen in 1826 to thirty-eight per cent., leaving the average, three hundred and ninety-three out of one thousand five hundred and fifty-one, equal to twenty-five and one-third per cent.; this is however, five per cent. under the ratio of Bengal; and it appears that the number concerned in each case, had been in the proportion of 2.16; whilst the convictions were only 0.54.

The offences, as before observed, had vastly increased, being nearly double in 1826 what they were in 1823 (or in 1824,) the cases being one thousand and ninety-one in the latter year, against two thousand one hundred and twelve in the former; whilst the offenders in that year were two thousand five hundred and twenty, and in this five thousand and eighty-two; the ratio of convictions too, had fallen from forty-three per cent. to a little more than thirty-nine per cent. The average of the period, being in the latter proportion, or 0.92 to each case, wherein the parties concerned amounted to 2.32.

The general range of every description of case, will be found to have been an increase from one thousand nine hundred and seventy-three by four thousand six hundred and forty-one offenders in 1828, to three thousand two

hundred and sixty-eight by seven thousand three hundred and two in 1826; the convictions appearing in this latter year thirty-nine and half per cent., against twenty-six and half in the former, and so far improving to the extent of thirteen per cent.: the average being annually in the proportion of about thirty-five per cent., or one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven out of five thousand two hundred and five, equal to 0.80 to each case, whilst the parties appear to have been 2.27.

MALDA,—this district also, is a medium one, and somewhat more favorable in its proportion of crime than its neighbour just noted; it has kept a tolerably even tenor during the period now described, its average ratio of offenders being one in three hundred and ninety-two. Crimes against the person only amounted to fourteen in four years, all of which were in the two last; other heinous crimes average but one hundred and forty annually, the two last years being in all, two hundred and five, or one hundred and two in each year; but the parties concerned were numerous, being for the two hundred and five no less than eight hundred and seventy-eight; the convictions having been from two per cent. in 1823 to nearly sixty-eight per cent. in 1826, thirty per cent. above the general ratio of the year, making the average of the period thirty-seven per cent. or six and three-quarters above the proportion of the Presidency generally: the number of persons amounting to 1.87, and the convictions to 0.89 in each case.

In offences there had been little alteration during the four years, the number of cases having been nearly the same in each, but there was a trifling decrease in the offenders, and the proportion of convictions evinced a slight improvement; these last standing in the average of about thirty-two and a third per cent. which is, as will be observed, rather an unfavorable proportion: the parties to each case were 2.36, and the convictions 0.76.

The general statement of cases of all descriptions shews between 1823 and 1826, a decrease of a little more than eight per cent. and offenders had lessened nearly six per cent.: whilst convictions, that were in 1823, twenty-seven per cent., in 1826 had risen to thirty-nine per cent.: still however, below the rate of all the districts by two per cent. the average of the four years had been five hundred and forty-four out of one thousand six hundred and fifty-two

offenders, not quite thirty-three per cent.: rather unfavorable considering that the general result of Bengal was 38.52 per cent. The parties concerned seem to have borne the ratio of 2.41 to each case, and the convictions 0.79. The crimes bearing a proportion of thirty-one per cent. in cases, and twenty-nine and three-quarters per cent. in persons. The smallness of this Zillah has very probably contributed to lessen the convictions there, by its being impossible to place so efficient an officer, as the claims of larger tracts of country called for, but its great populousness might have given it a preference denied to its size, and when it is observed that the population exceeds four hundred individuals to the square mile, it almost excites wonder, that crime is not more extensive.

Rungpore,—is a thinly populated district, and presents a medium proportion of crime, amounting in the aggregate to one offender in three hundred and ninety-six inhabitants: exhibiting however, a gradual decrease since the first year of the series, when it was found to be one in two hundred and thirteen only. In 1823, there were thirteen cases of crimes against the person, which in 1826 had sunk to seven, the average shewing nine in each year. Other heinous offences evince a yet more palpable improvement, having fallen from one thousand eight hundred and nineteen to three hundred and eight, being no less than eighty-three per cent.; in this respect however, 1825 presents a yet more remarkable decrease, there having been in that year only sixty-six; the whole number of cases of a heinous nature appear to have been one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two by four thousand two hundred and fifty-one persons in 1823 against three hundred and fifteen by one thousand one hundred and ten in 1826; being, in crimes a decrease of eighty-three per cent., and in criminals nearly seventy-four per cent.; whilst the general average was respectively six hundred and thirty-three and one-thousand five-hundred and forty-eight. Convictions, which in 1823 shewed the frightful disproportion of only one per cent. of the number of offenders, had risen in 1826 to twenty-seven and a half per cent., exhibiting a wonderful improvement in so short a time, although even this is ten per cent. below the general ratio of that year. The average of the series shews one hundred and ninety-three convictions out of one thousand

five hundred and forty-eight offenders annually, or about twelve and a half per cent., in other words, seven offenders escaped for one that was punished; whilst with reference to the number of cases, the punishments stand only in the proportion of 0.30 to one, the parties to each case of a heinous nature having been 2.45.

In offences there had also been a decrease from five hundred and eighty-seven by two thousand and thirty-six parties in 1823, to three hundred and forty-two by one thousand four hundred and sixty-four persons in 1826, the former being above forty-one per cent. and the latter twenty-eight per cent. This shews, that the parties to each case were on the increase as cases lessened, there having been in 1823, 3.47 to each, and in 1826, 4.28; juridication, however, appears to have fallen off in this division of crime, whence probably the increased combination for each case; as it will be found, that convictions in 1823 were as forty-five and a half per cent., whereas in 1826 they sunk to twenty-four per cent., this may have arisen from the attention of the Magistrate having been directed, more particularly, to the lessening of heinous offences in the Zillah. The average convictions in the four years were nearly forty-two per cent., equal to 1.43 for each case, effected by 3.42 persons.

The general range of cases, of all descriptions, will be found therefore an improvement from two thousand four hundred and nineteen in 1823, to six hundred and fifty-seven in 1826, the decrease having been equal to about five hundred and eighty-six per annum; the parties concerned falling during the same period from six thousand two hundred and eighty-seven, to two thousand five hundred and seventy-four, or fifty-nine per cent., whilst convictions had risen from fifteen to twenty-five and a half per cent.: the general result of the period shewing, one thousand one hundred and seventy-one cases, with nine hundred and sixty-four convictions annually, or as one to 0.82: whilst the parties to each case, which in 1823 were 2.59 had increased in 1826 to 3.75; leading to the conclusion, that though crime had decreased, yet that the combinations for effecting it, so far from breaking up, had increased in a ratio of about forty-two per cent. The general ratio of convictions was to those concerned twenty-eight per cent., or little more

than two-thirds what it ought to have been during the four years, with 2.89 persons concerned in each case, so that five were allowed to be loose on the public, and to prey on the country, for every one who received the just punishment of his crimes. These last stand, with regard to all cases as fifty-four per cent, and in parties concerned forty-five and half per cent. On the whole, however, the district had improved during the period of review.

Rajshuhake and Pubna.—It is necessary to premise, before entering on the details of these united districts, that in consequence of the loss of the returns for the two first years, they do not afford the means of comparison as to the progress, or otherwise of crime, they having been supplied in the absence of actual data, as well as possible by an average of the two last years, the remarks will be confined, therefore, to the sixth statement, or "Average of four years," which leads to the classification of this Zillah as, with exception to Midnapore, the best in Bengal, the ratio of crime having been only, as one in nine hundred and ninety-one, although the population of seven hundred and thirty-three per square mile was the largest of any Zillah; it is necessary, however, to observe, that in the opinion of some, this population has been exaggerated, at the same time that the extent has been somewhat underrated; this being from official returns, however, of the period in question, must be left for the reader to form his own judgment.

The extent of crimes against the person were very great, forming nearly twenty-four per cent. of the heinous offences in one year; these are together one hundred and nine, performed by nine hundred and thirty-one individuals, the convictions being four hundred and twenty-two, above forty-five per cent., or about fifteen per cent. beyond the general average of the country. The number of persons to each case were 8.54, and the convictions amounted to 3.86, so that although heinous crimes were rife, their punishment also was proportionately active.

Offences amounted, in the year, to five hundred and twenty-nine, by one thousand four hundred and thirty-one persons; among whom the convictions ranked as nearly thirty-two per cent., a far from favorable ratio; but it must strike the reader all through these calculations, that where the heinous crimes have been numerous enough to attract particular attention, convictions for

them have increased, it is true, but, at the sacrifice of reduced punishment for minor offences; for instance, we here see that whilst nearly four were convicted for every single case among the heavier crimes, the proportion has been only 0.86 for each of the offences, the parties thereto having been 2.71.

The general range of cases has been thereby reduced to six hundred and thirty-eight in each year, with two thousand three hundred and sixty-two concerned in them, and eight hundred and seventy-nine convictions; these latter being in the ratio of thirty-seven and one-quarter per cent., one and a quarter below the average of the country; or, in other words, 1.38 to each case, the parties thereto having numbered 3.71. The crimes of a serious character form seventeen per cent. on the whole, and in them thirty-nine and half per cent. of the culprits were concerned.

Bugoorah—is another of those districts that may be reckoned among the best; the average of crimes having been only one in six hundred and twenty-three. It has, however been retrograding during the period now under notice, and to an extent of upwards of fifty-five per cent., the ratio in 1823 having been one in one thousand and one, and in 1826 one in four hundred and forty-four; and this depreciation has occurred alike in the heinous as in minor offences. Crimes against the person having risen in 1826 to more in number than in all the preceding years, whilst the more serious ones against property, extending in 1823 to only seventeen, had in 1826 reached ninety; in fine, serious cases, including all descriptions, had increased in the number of cases during those years to the extent of four hundred and fifty-six per cent. being in the first year twenty-three, and in the last one hundred and five; whilst the criminals, in 1823, only one hundred and thirty-one, rose in 1826 to four hundred and three, nearly two hundred and eight per cent. The natural consequence of a declining proportion of convictions among criminals of this description is exhibited in the last of these years, from the sudden rise in the number, being as follows:—

	1823,	28 per cent.
	1824,	21 ,, ,,
	1825,	19 ,, ,,
and in	1826,	31½ ,, ,,

The general average of the four years, shews seventy-four cases of heinous crimes in each year, of which nine and a half per cent. were against the person; whilst the convictions amounted to only twenty-three per cent. of the parties concerned, who were in each case 5.05, those punished having been 1.18.

The cases of offences had increased from one hundred and sixty-nine to four hundred, or in the proportion of above one hundred and thirty-six per cent., this was, however, only in the last year; the parties concerned having also advanced from five hundred to one thousand and twenty-one, equalling one hundred and four per cent. in the same period; on the other hand, convictions, which in 1823 were only eight and a half per cent., rose in 1826 to twenty-seven and a half per cent., although it is somewhat remarkable, that in 1824, two hundred and twenty-two offenders were convicted out of four hundred and fifty-two, which would shew the ratio of forty-nine per cent.; but this, throughout the country, was general, in that year for such crimes, the average however, had been nearly twenty-four per cent., or little more than half the proportion in the country, and for each case 0.70 wherein 2.96 parties concerned.

Turning to the general average statement of crimes of every description, there will be found a depreciation of one hundred and sixty-three per cent., that is to say, from one hundred and ninety-two in 1823, to five hundred and five in 1826, in the number of cases; and an increase in offenders from six hundred and thirty-one to one thousand four hundred and twenty-four, equalling one hundred and twenty-five per cent.: whilst the convictions in 1823, twelve and a half per cent., were in 1826 nearly twenty-nine per cent., this is, however, yet considerably below the general average of forty-one and a third per cent., and shews that, although juridication had improved, it still called for much attention before it could reach the state of other Zillahs, despite the favorable proportion crime bore on the population. The general average of the four years shews the convictions to be in the ratio of twenty-three and a half per cent., with one thousand and fourteen persons concerned in two hundred and eighty-five cases annually, the convictions being 0.84, and the parties 3.55 to each case. The proportion that crime

bore to the whole was in the four years about twenty-six per cent. in number of cases, and forty per cent. in the parties concerned.

MOORSHEDABAD,—held a middle ratio with respect to its state of crime, amounting to an average of one criminal in four hundred and nineteen inhabitants, yet it exhibits also a pretty regular and progressive improvement during the first three years, from one in three hundred and sixty-four to one in four hundred and ninety, and although it retrograded from this last in 1826, to one in four hundred and forty-six, yet even that is above seventeen per cent. below the proportion in 1823, and this improvement more specially appears in the number of crimes of a more serious character; of these, however, such as are against the person appear to have increased to a considerable extent, there having been in 1823 only five cases, whilst in 1825 they had risen to twenty, and in 1826 only fell to the number of thirteen cases; those against property, however, in the same period had fallen from three hundred and seven in 1823, to one hundred and forty-two in 1826, a favourable alteration to the extent of fifty-three and a half per cent.; whilst the general amount of criminals had lessened in the four years about twenty-four per cent.; at the same time that there was given the best evidence of improved juridication, in the convictions having been in 1823 only one hundred and seventy-three, whilst in 1826, they reached two hundred and sixty-seven out of five hundred and ninety-three, the former being twenty-two per cent., and the latter forty-five per cent. of the offenders, or about eight per cent. above the general standard of that year; the average of the four years exhibiting convictions to the proportion of thirty-three per cent., but a little above the average of the country generally. The number of persons concerned in each case, will be found to have been in the proportion of 3.76, whilst the convictions were only 1.24, so that in spite of the improvement, two escaped for every one that was punished.

Turning to the offences it will be found, that but small alteration has occurred, the difference of cases between 1823 and 1826 having been only sixteen per cent., and that of persons but fifteen and a half per cent.; here again, however, the year 1825 shews a marked decrease, being in cases thirty-one per cent. below its immediate predecessor, and in persons almost thirty-

two per cent. The proportion of convictions were in 1823 thirty-eight per cent., and in 1826 forty-two per cent., the average of the whole four years having been not quite thirty-eight per cent., or more than four and a half below the common proportion of all the Zillahs, thus further supporting the position, before alluded to, that every exertion made to increase convictions for more serious crimes, has the counterbalancing effect of lessening those for the more trifling offences. The parties to each case had been 1.81, and the convictions 0.68, so that eleven out of eighteen committed those offences with impunity.

Of cases generally, the results shew one thousand and thirty-seven in 1823, against seven hundred and sixty-three in 1826, being a decrease of twenty-six per cent.: with an improvement in the number of offenders from two thousand and ninety-five, in the former year, to one thousand seven hundred and ten, equal to eighteen and a half per cent.; and the convictions which were in 1823 thirty-three and a half per cent., rose in 1826 to forty-three and a half per cent., the general average of the four years having been six hundred and fifty-eight convictions out of one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three offenders annually, or thirty-six and a half per cent.; a proportion somewhat below the general ratio of the whole Zillahs; but this it has been shewn was chiefly amongst the less serious offences, the convictions having been to each case as 0.80, and the parties concerned 2.24. The proportion crimes bore to the whole of the offences had been during the period of review, twenty-four per cent. in number of cases, and thirty-six and a half per cent. in the parties concerned.

Beerbhoom—also, is one of the middle rate of Zillahs in regard to the extent of crime, and offers in the average one offender in four hundred and forty-three inhabitants; shewing too, like its neighbour just preceding, a rapid improvement during the first three years from one in three hundred and forty-three in 1823, to one in five hundred and thirty-three in 1825; a difference amounting to fifty-five and a quarter per cent., and although this fell off in the following year to a proportion equal to one in four hundred and thirty-three, yet even this would be an improvement in the ratio of more than twenty-six per cent. Crimes against the person had slightly increased, amount-

ing in the first two years to sixteen, and in the second two years to twenty-one, making an annual ratio of increase to the extent of about thirty-one per cent., whilst other heinous crimes, which averaged in 1823 and 1824 one hundred and sixty-nine in each year, did not in 1825 and 1826 exceed one hundred and eight per annum, thus shewing an improvement equal in the number of cases to thirty-six per cent., whilst the annual proportion of persons concerned in these cases, had fallen twenty-five and a half per cent.: though between 1823 and 1826 individually compared, there would rather appear an increase to the trifling amount of 2.43 per cent.; against this, however, will be found the improved ratio of convictions of twenty-five per cent., there having been only ninety-eight out of two hundred and forty-six in the first year, increased to one hundred and sixty-three out of two hundred and fifty-two in the last, that is to say, sixty-four and half per cent. in 1826, against thirty-nine and half per cent. in 1823; the former being no less than twenty-seven per cent. above the common ratio of the year in Bengal, or thirty-four above that of the four years under review, of which in this respect 1826 forms the average; the number of parties having been during the period 1.70 to each case, and the convictions 1.10, so that only six out of seventeen escaped the just punishment of their crimes.

Coming now to the statement of offences, it will be found that between 1823 and 1826, these had decreased in the number of cases twenty-four and a half per cent., and in the amount of offenders, twenty-two per cent., whilst the proportion of convictions had likewise exhibited a favourable and steady appearance, with but little alteration; having been in 1823 one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five out of three thousand four hundred and forty-five, equal to fifty-three and a half per cent., and in 1826 one thousand two hundred and ninety-seven out of two thousand six hundred and seventy-six, being forty-eight and a half per cent.; this being also the average of the four years, and nearly six per cent. above that of the country at large, the rate to each case was thus 1.18, and the parties 2.43.

Turning now to the general range of offences and crimes, it will be found that these comprised in 1823 one thousand six hundred and two cases, with three thousand six hundred and ninety-one parties to them, lessened in 1826 to

one thousand two hundred and eighteen, by two thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight individuals, being an improvement equal to nearly twenty-one per cent. in the latter, and nearly twenty-four per cent. in the former, the average being one thousand two hundred and forty-seven cases, by two thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight persons annually, the convictions in the first year being fifty-one per cent., and in the last forty-nine and a half, the mean having been in number one thousand four hundred and sixty annually, or in the same ratio as in 1826. These convictions bearing the proportion of 1.13 to each case, whereto 2.26 were parties. The proportion of crimes to the whole offences, &c. appears to have been not quite twelve per cent. in the number of cases, and in the number of persons nearly nine per cent. Thus on the whole Beerbhoom may be justly ranked among the best Zillahs, since although the proportion of crimes and offences committed bears heavier on the number of inhabitants than in many others; yet that Zillah cannot be in a bad state, where, in the lapse of four years, half the number of offenders have received the punishment that justice demanded.

CHAPTER III.

Summary of Crimes in the Fifteen Districts forming the North-western part of the Bengal Presidency.

Having concluded what may be termed the North-western portion of the Bengal Presidency, it may be advisable to take a review of that part of the country, as respects its criminal condition generally, during the four years from 1823 to 1826, and summed up in the following statements.

	Extent.			Crimes.					Offences, &c.			Total.			
				Cases.											
	Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Against the person.	Against property.	Total.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Proportion of offenders to population, being one in
First Div.															
1823,				156	10,108	10,264	21,438	2,269	17,580	33,704	13,183	27,844	55,137	15,452	316
1824,				190	4,143	4,333	13,214	4,599	18,581	35,934	16,679	22,914	49,148	21,278	354
1825,				341	6,085	6,426	17,685	6,339	15,283	30,563	13,291	21,059	48,248	19,630	361
1826,				234	7,237	7,471	18,493	6,212	15,043	30,799	12,580	22,514	49,292	18,892	353
Total, ...	...	...	...	921	27,573	28,494	70,825	19,419	66,437	131,000	55,733	94,931	201,825	75,252	
Average,...	63,756	17,397,585	271,87	230	6,893	7,123	17,706	4,855	16,609	32,750	13,953	23,733	50,456	18,788	345

On reviewing the Zillah statements it may be observed, that in eight Zillahs out of fifteen, the ratio of crime was above one in four hundred of its inhabitants, whilst in four only, does it appear that it fell short of one in five hundred. Looking at the extent of this division of the country, it will be found estimated to embrace some sixty-three thousand seven hundred and fifty-six square miles, divided into Zillahs varying from six hundred and sixty-seven to seven thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, with a population ranging from two hundred and fifty-five thousand seven hundred, to one million four hundred and sixty-four thousand two hundred and seventy-five; amounting in the whole to seventeen millions three hundred and ninety seven-thousand five hundred and eighty-five souls, and equalling about two hundred and seventy-two to the square mile. The average ratio of crime has been in the four years one offender in three hundred and forty-five inhabitants, ranging from one in three hundred and sixteen in 1823, to one in three hundred and sixty-one in 1825, and falling again in the last year of the series to one in three hundred and fifty-three, the second and last years being nearly the same in proportion.

Dividing the cases under the heads given in the statements, and viewing them in the same order, the annual results will be as follow:—Between 1823 and 1825, crimes against the person rose about a hundred and nineteen per cent., and in the following year, or last of the period, again fell above forty-

five per cent. in the number of cases, making that nearly an average year, being only four more than two hundred and thirty cases, at the same time the cases of heinous crimes against property fell between 1823 and 1824, no less than fifty-nine per cent., whence it rose again in 1825 above forty-six per cent., and in 1826, a further eighteen per cent., making nevertheless the favorable difference between the first and last year of the series of twenty-eight per cent., and leaving the annual average six thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; a summary of both descriptions of cases, shews a difference, between the first year and the last, equal to twenty-seven per cent., the total number of cases in 1826 being however nearly five per cent. above the annual average of the whole period, or seven thousand one hundred and twenty-three cases, giving one case to two thousand four hundred and forty-two inhabitants; of these, crimes against the person are one in seventy-five thousand six hundred and forty-one, and against property, one in two thousand five hundred and twenty-four, the former constituting somewhere above three and a quarter per cent. of the annual amount.

The parties concerned in these crimes fluctuated during the period in question as much as the number of cases, but in a different degree, the third year being nearly an average one. The decrease from 1823 to 1824, not less than thirty-eight per cent., whence in 1825 there was an increase equal to rather more than thirty-three per cent. on the number in the previous year, and in 1826 they again rose some four and a half per cent. above the amount in 1825, the actual difference between 1823 and 1826, shewing a decline amounting to about thirteen and three-quarters per cent.: though both years were above the annual average number of seventeen thousand seven hundred and six, which makes the number of individuals concerned in each case to average 2.48.

The column of convictions exhibits a regular progressive improvement during the first three years of the period, rising in numbers, one hundred and two per cent. in the second year beyond what they were in the first; and again in the third, nearly thirty-eight per cent. beyond the number in the second year, the fourth year falling some two per cent. below its predecessor; the actual

difference between 1823 and 1826 being an increase of convictions amounting to a trifle above one hundred and seventy-three per cent.; a favorable state of things, affording evidence of a general improvement in juridication, more than commensurate with the decrease in the amount of offenders, and raising the annual average of convictions in this division, for heinous crimes, to four thousand eight hundred and fifty-five in number, but the improvement is more strongly displayed, if the rate that convictions have been to the parties concerned is referred to, the annual average on the four years being twenty-seven and a half per cent., ranging as follows; in

1823, Ten and a half per cent.
1824, About thirty-five ditto,
1825, Almost thirty-six ditto,
1826, Thirty-three and a half ditto,

the entire average bearing in the proportion of little more than one conviction to two cases, the ratio being 0.68; a small number indeed, and little calculated to discourage, or reduce crime, since when little more than one out of four offenders receive the punishment justice to the community demands, for crimes committed, every evil disposed person will expect to be one of the *fortunate* three, as they deem those that shall escape.

In offences of a miscellaneous nature, the result in this division will be found to have been somewhat better, the number of cases having varied much less than in the range of crimes, the greatest amount having been in the first year, when they were nearly six per cent. above the average of sixteen thousand six hundred and nine; and the lowest nnmber was in the last year, when it was almost nine and a half per cent. below the average, the difference being between 1823 and 1826 individually, nearly seventeen per cent. in favor of the latter, the parties concerned in the cases were in the annual average thirty-two thousand and seven hundred and fifty, but are decreasing, as the last year they were nearly six per cent. below this amount, and nine less than they were in the first year. In the convictions, a very unfavorable result appears, since the last year displays a falling off in number, in the proportion of not quite four per cent., but as these had risen in 1824 to sixteen thousand six hundred and seventy-nine, the fall between that year

and 1826 was about twenty-four per cent., the annual average having been in the four years thirteen thousand, nine hundred and thirty-three, being a proportion of more than forty-two per cent. of the parties concerned, running through the four years in the following proportions, in

1823, Thirty-nine per cent.
1824, Forty-six per cent.
1825, Forty-three and a half per cent.
1826, Forty-one per cent.,

yet still, notwithstanding the favorableness of this proportion, as far as the parties are concerned, the number does not equal a conviction to each case, but rests at only 0.84.

The history of crime in the division must however be found on the total of these two classes, comprehending all the cases that come before the magistrates of the division, and forming, in fact, a general summary thereof; from this we find the number of cases progressively lessening in the first three years, amounting in 1824 to nearly eighteen per cent. less than in the first year, and in 1825 again, to almost five and a half per cent. less, than in its immediate predecessor, the total decrease in the three being twenty-two to a quarter per cent.; hence however in the next year, we have a rise again of three and three-quarters per cent., so that a comparison between 1823 and 1826 shews only a diminution of cases equal to some eighteen and three quarters per cent., and leaves the annual amount twenty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty-three cases, of which thirty per cent. were crimes of a serious complexion. Whilst such has been the result with respect to the cases brought forward, the following has occurred in the number of offenders, or parties concerned in them—in 1823, these were 1.98 to each case, but in 1826 had come up to 2.19, the average throughout the four years being 2.12, these amounting to fifty thousand four hundred and fifty-six annually, and decreasing gradually for the first three years, the diminution from 1823 to 1824 amounting to ten and three-quarters, and from 1824 to 1825 one and four-fifths per cent., but from this last to 1826, there was a rise of a little above two per cent., leaving the decrease, on a comparison between the first and last years of the series, at ten and a half per cent.

In the convictions the summary shews a great numerical advance between the first and second years, equalling no less than thirty-seven and a half, and, as compared with the number of parties concerned, an increase from twenty-eight to above forty-three per cent.; from hence however, the convictions progressively decreased in amount some seven and three-quarters per cent., in 1825, and about three and three-quarters per cent. in 1826; the numerical difference, between the first and last years of the period shewing an increase of only twenty-two and a quarter per cent. in numbers, and some six and a quarter per cent., as the amount of improvement in the proportion of convictions to parties concerned, which amounted on the average of the four years, to above thirty-seven per cent.; the average number of convictions having been eighteen thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight. From the criminal returns in this division, it will be seen that crimes bore the ratio of thirty per cent. among the cases, thirty-five per cent. in the parties concerned, and barely twenty-six per cent. in the convictions, thus although the proportion of crimes was great, yet in convictions the chief attention would appear to have been bestowed on minor and miscellaneous offences, for the proportions in number, alike of cases as of delinquents, has been from four to nine per cent. in excess of the proportion of convictions.

From this summary another branch of the subject may be ascertained, which is, the proportion of labour undergone by the public officers in each district; for it will be found that the average of cases in the fifteen Zillahs was one thousand five hundred and eighty-two annually; this, allowing for days that the courts may be closed, say seventy-six out of three hundred and sixty-five days, would give above eight cases to be disposed of in each day, the parties to these would be nearly eighteen, relative to each of whom one or more witnesses must be examined: besides inspecting reports and other similar matters concerning executive police, not properly appertaining to the duties of a magistrate, but which are in this country assigned to that office. This amount of work however, is an average, but if we refer to particular districts, where crimes are more extensive, it will be found that in Tirhoot and Poorneeah the daily amount of cases was above twenty in each; involving, in the latter district, some thirty parties, and in the former nearly forty individuals: whilst in Behar and Dinajpore the cases were about twelve, and the persons concerned in them above twenty-seven daily. It is not the object of this work to comment on the proceedings of those in authority, it merely affords facts, or here would be a wide field for remark.

CHAPTER IV.

Analysis of Crime and Criminals from 1823 to 1826, with their relative proportions to the population, &c. in Mymensing, Dacca, Jelalpore, Sylhet, Bakkurgunj, Tipperah, Chuttagong, Hooglee, Burdwan, Bankorah, Twenty-four Pergunnahs, Jessore, Nuddeea, Midnapore, and Cuttack.

A Comparative view of Crimes, &c. in the 2d Division of Bengal.

		Extent.			Crimes.					Offences, &c.			Total.			
					Cases.											
		Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Against the person	Against property.	Total.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Proportion of offenders to population, being one in
1823	Mymensing, ...	6,140	1,269,765	206.80	14	190	204	542	78	1,019	1,916	1,158	1,223	2,458	1,236	517
	Dacca, ...	1,870	512,385	273.79	6	125	131	412	103	979	1,901	1,194	1,110	2,313	1,297	222
	Jelalpore, ...	2,585	588,375	227.60	6	129	135	401	241	494	988	285	629	1,389	526	424
	Sylhet, ...	3,532	1,083,720	306.83	5	138	143	239	135	542	1,439	635	685	1,678	770	646
	Bakkurgunj, ...	2,780	686,640	246.99	10	227	237	444	317	403	1,403	744	640	1,847	1,061	372
	Tipperah and Noakollee, ..	6,830	1,372,260	200.92	6	82	88	780	185	707	1,442	800	795	2,222	985	618
	Chuttagong, ...	2,980	700,800	235.17	9	13	22	154	63	579	898	225	601	1,052	288	666
	Hooglee, ...	2,260	1,332,545	589.62	12	142	154	681	325	791	1,756	783	945	2,437	1,108	547
	Burdwan, ...	2,000	1,187,500	293.79	7	91	98	388	73	2,401	6,052	1,825	2,499	6,440	1,898	184
	Bankorah, Ramghur, &c. ..	29,420	3,557,725	120.92	24	1,022	1,046	2,223	383	1,102	2,215	809	2,148	4,438	1,192	802
	24-Pergunnahs, Suburbs of Calcutta and Baraset, ..	4,715	959,955	203.59	15	133	148	551	173	788	1,992	1,847	936	2,543	2,020	378
	Jessore, ...	5,180	1,183,590	228.49	11	173	184	691	119	885	2,266	528	1,069	2,957	647	400
	Nuddeea, ...	3,105	1,187,160	382.33	12	201	213	1,118	353	340	711	336	553	1,829	689	649
	Midnapore, ...	8,260	1,914,060	231.73	16	229	245	498	63	309	684	212	554	1,182	275	1,619
	N. and S. Cuttack, ...	9,040	1,984,620	219.53	17	986	1,003	1,613	244	1,142	2,068	451	2,145	3,681	695	539
	Total, ...	90,697	19,521,100	204.21	170	3,881	4,051	10,735	2,855	12,483	27,731	11,832	16,532	38,466	14,687	507
1824	Mymensing, ...	..	..	..	18	148	166	654	396	1,628	3,060	1,424	1,794	3,714	1,820	342
	Dacca, ...	..	...	..	9	125	134	455	130	944	1,754	1,099	1,038	2,209	1,229	232
	Jelalpore, ...	..	..	...	21	38	59	1,549	213	917	1,835	549	976	3,384	762	174
	Sylhet, ...	..	..	..	11	162	173	716	291	797	2,137	826	970	2,853	1,117	380
	Bakkurgunj, ...	..	..	..	15	67	82	246	226	433	1,510	852	515	1,756	1,078	391
	Tipperah and Noakollee, ..	..	..	..	8	38	46	207	119	730	1,490	797	776	1,697	916	809
	Chuttagong, ...	..	..	..	11	27	38	643	124	388	602	146	426	1,245	270	563
	Hooglee, ...	..	..	..	10	121	131	430	206	1,327	3,046	1,218	1,458	3,476	1,424	383
	Burdwan, ...	..	..	..	10	87	97	462	179	2,384	6,008	1,461	2,481	6,470	1,640	184
	Bankorah, Ramghur, &c. ..	..	..	..	35	254	289	983	411	2,244	4,412	2,436	2,533	5,395	2,847	661
	24-Pergunnahs, Suburbs of Calcutta, and Baraset,			..	15	131	146	799	196	2,210	5,869	1,790	2,356	6,668	1,986	144
	Jessore, ...	..	..	..	19	65	84	1,628	219	742	1,600	618	826	3,528	837	335
	Nuddeea, ...	..	..	..	13	195	208	1,424	448	455	934	384	663	2,358	832	503
	Midnapore, ...	..	..	..	16	228	244	562	145	308	679	325	552	1,241	470	1,542
	N. and S. Cuttack, ...	..	..	..	240	854	1,094	1,002	569	330	598	142	1,424	1,600	711	1,240
	Total, ...	..	..	..	451	2,540	2,991	11,720	3,872	15,797	35,834	14,067	18,788	57,554	17,939	339

A Comparative view of Crimes, &c. in the 2d Division of Bengal.

		Extent.			Crimes.					Offences, &c.			Total.			
					Cases.											
		Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Against the person	Against property.	Total.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Proportion of offenders to population, being *one* in
1825	Mymensing, ...	6,140	1,269,765	206.80	22	183	211	6,137	221	907	1,757	553	1,118	7,894	774	161
	Dacca, ...	1,870	512,385	273.79	14	719	133	396	192	741	1,473	1,038	874	1,869	1,230	274
	Jelalpore, ...	2,585	588,375	227.60	13	46	59	294	230	1,059	2,401	743	1,118	2,695	973	222
	Sylhet, ...	3,532	1,083,720	306.83	29	253	282	778	359	728	2,098	793	1,010	2,876	1,152	377
	Bakkurgunj, ...	2,780	686,640	246.99	30	152	182	738	630	740	2,613	1,514	922	3,351	2,144	205
	Tipperah and Noakollee, ..	6,830	1,372,260	200.92	9	73	82	452	283	706	1,469	579	788	1,921	862	714
	Chuttagong, ...	2,980	700,800	235.17	15	45	60	523	199	435	922	189	495	1,445	388	485
	Hooglee, ...	2,260	1,332,545	589.62	12	77	89	189	152	838	1,860	737	927	2,049	889	652
	Burdwan, ...	2,000	1,187,500	293.79	13	224	237	473	269	2,073	5,206	1,184	2,310	5 679	1,453	227
	Bankorah, Ramghur, &c. ..	29,420	3,557,725	120.92	28	1,423	1,461	2,653	1,036	1,450	2,935	1,354	2,911	5,588	2,390	637
	24-Pergunnahs, Suburbs of Calcutta, and Baraset, ..	4,715	959,955	203.59	21	282	303	1,768	680	919	3,987	969	1,222	5,755	1,649	167
	Jessore, ...	5,180	1,183,590	228.49	28	185	213	1,489	264	811	2,328	851	1,024	3,817	1,115	310
	Nuddeea, ...	3,105	1,187,160	282.33	11	208	219	1,290	336	378	725	292	597	2,015	628	589
	Midnapore, ...	8,260	1,914,060	231.73	21	102	123	438	263	480	1,049	479	603	1,487	742	1,293
	N. and S. Cuttack, ...	9,040	1,984,620	219.53	132	621	744	1,491	655	915	1,800	493	1,659	3,291	1,148	603
	Total,....	90,697	19,521,100	204.21	408	3,990	4,398	19,109	5,769	13,180	32,623	11,768	17,578	51,732	17,537	377
1826	Mymensing, ...				14	216	230	1,054	254	1,181	2,176	660	1,411	3,230	914	393
	Dacca, ...				16	108	124	700	262	1,028	1,962	890	1,152	2,662	1,152	192
	Jelalpore, ...				15	83	98	366	254	1,319	2,367	1,121	1,417	2,733	1,375	215
	Sylhet,..				17	305	322	933	429	1,254	3,212	1,292	1,576	4,145	1,721	261
	Bakkurgunj, ...				16	205	221	603	483	1,332	4,598	870	1,553	5,201	1,253	132
	Tipperah and Noakollee, ...				24	255	279	1,327	582	1,364	2,770	1,291	1,643	4,097	1,873	235
	Chuttagong, ...				16	66	82	517	218	591	667	745	673	1,184	963	592
	Hooglee, ...				15	105	120	367	275	985	2,191	1,041	1,105	2,558	1,316	521
	Burdwan, ...				8	85	93	388	272	2,005	5,089	1,823	2,098	5,477	2,095	217
	Bankorah, Ramghur, &c., ...				36	1,687	1,723	3,293	1,502	1,345	2,692	1,424	3,068	5,985	2,926	594
	24-Pergunnahs, Surburbs of Calcutta, and Baraset, ..				16	299	315	809	553	2,084	3,931	1,779	2,399	4,740	2,332	203
	Jessore, ...				92	154	246	949	173	880	1,997	772	1,126	2,946	945	402
	Nuddeea, ...				84	156	240	927	308	400	873	272	640	1,800	580	660
	Midnapore, ...				9	100	109	493	248	308	691	239	417	1,184	487	1,617
	N. and S. Cuttack, ...				195	971	1,166	3,574	1,021	1,058	1,767	607	2,224	5,341	1,628	372
	Total, ...				573	4,795	5,368	16,300	6,834	17,730	36,983	14,826	23,098	53,283	21,660	366

Total amount of Crimes in the 2d Division of Bengal during Four Years.

	Extent.			Crimes.				Offences, &c.				Total.			
	Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Cases. Against the person	Cases. Against property.	Cases. Total.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions.	Proportion of offenders to population, being *one* in
Mymensing, ...	6,140	1,269,765	206.80	68	743	811	8,387	949	4,735	8,909	3,795	5,546	17.296	4,744	
Dacca, ...	1,870	512,385	273.79	45	477	522	1,963	687	3,652	7,090	4,221	4,174	9,053	4,908	
Jelalpore, ...	2,585	588,375	227.60	55	296	351	2,610	938	3,789	7,591	2,698	4,140	10,201	3,636	
Sylhet, ...	3,532	1.083.720	306 83	62	858	920	2,666	1,214	3,321	8,886	3,546	4,241	11,552	4,760	
Bakkurgunj, ...	2,780	686,640	246.99	71	651	722	2,031	1,656	2,908	10,124	3.980	3,630	12,155	5,636	
Tipperah and Noakollee, ..	6,830	1,372,260	200.92	47	448	495	2,766	1,169	3,507	7,171	3,467	4,002	9,937	4,636	
Chuttagong,..	2,980	700,800	235.17	51	151	202	1,837	604	1,993	3,089	1,305	2,195	4,926	1,909	
Hooglee, ...	2,260	1,332,545	589.62	49	445	494	1,667	958	3,941	8,853	3,779	4,435	10,520	4,737	
Burdwan, ...	2,000	1,187,580	293.79	38	487	525	1,711	793	8,865	22,355	6,293	9,388	24,066	7,086	
Bankorah, Ramghur, &c. ..	29,420	3,557,725	120.92	133	4,386	4,519	9,152	3,332	6,141	12,254	6,023	10,660	21,406	9,355	
24-Pergunnahs, Suburbs of Calcutta, and Baraset,	4,715	959,955	203.59	67	845	912	3,927	1,602	6,001	15,779	6,385	6,913	19,706	7,987	
Jessore, ...	5,180	1,183,590	228.49	150	577	727	4,757	775	3,318	8,491	2,769	4,045	13,248	3,544	
Nuddeea, ...	3,105	1,187,160	382.33	120	760	880	4,759	1,445	1,573	3,243	1,284	2,453	8,002	2,729	
Midnapore, ...	8,260	1,914,060	231.73	62	659	721	1,991	719	1,405	3,103	1,255	2,126	5,094	1,974	
N. and S. Cuttack,.. ..	9,040	1,984,620	219.53	584	3,423	4,007	7,680	2,489	3,445	6,233	1,693	7,452	13,913	4,182	
Total, ..	90,697	19,521.100	204.21	1,602	15,206	16,808	57,904	19,330	58,592	1,33,171	53,493	75,400	1,91,075	72,823	

Average of Four Years.

Mymensing, ...				17	186	203	2,097	237	1,184	2,227	949	1,386	4,324	1,186	294
Dacca, ...				11	119	130	491	172	913	1,772	1,055	1,043	2,263	1,227	222
Jelalpore, ...				14	74	88	652	234	947	1,898	674	1,035	2,550	909	231
Sylhet, ...				15	214	230	666	303	830	2,221	886	1,060	2,888	1,190	375
Bakkurgunj, ...				18	163	181	508	414	727	2,531	995	908	3,039	1,409	226
Tipperah and Noakollee, ...				12	112	124	691	292	877	1,793	867	1,001	2,484	1,159	552
Chuttagong, ...				13	38	51	459	151	498	772	326	549	1,231	477	569
Hooglee, ...				12	111	123	417	239	985	2,213	945	1,109	2,630	1,184	507
Burdwan,-				9	122	131	428	198	2,216	5,589	1,573	2,347	6,014	1,771	197
Bankorah, Ramghur, &c.				33	1,096	1,129	2,208	833	1,535	3,063	1,506	2,664	5,351	2,339	665
24-Pergunnahs, Suburbs of Calcutta, and Baraset, ..				17	211	228	982	401	1,500	3,945	1,596	1,728	4,926	1,997	195
Jessore, ...				37	144	182	1,189	194	829	2,123	692	1,011	3,312	886	357
Nuddeea, ...				30	190	220	1,190	361	393	811	321	613	2,000	682	594
Midnapore, ...				15	165	180	498	180	351	776	314	531	1,274	494	1,502
N. and S. Cuttack,..				146	856	1,002	1,920	622	861	1,558	423	1,863	3,478	1,045	571
Total.				100	3,801	4,202	14,176	4,832	14,648	33,293	13,373	18,850	47,769	18,206	409

The first Zillah that presents itself on this division of our work, is—

MYMENSING,—holding but an indifferent position in the scale of crime, the average of offenders being one in two hundred and ninety-four of the inhabitants; and what is worse is, that it shews a retrograde movement during the period under review, since the ratio in 1823 was one in five hundred and seventeen, whereas that in 1826 was one in three hundred and ninety-three, being a depreciation equal to twenty-four per cent., from the first of the series; such however was the increase of crimes, and those too, chiefly of a serious nature in 1825, that the ratio increased to the enormous extent of one in one hundred and fifty-nine inhabitants, a proportion sixty-three per cent. below those of 1823. In the first and last year, the number of cases against the person are precisely the same, viz. fourteen in each year; but in 1825 they had reached fifty-seven per cent. in excess, viz: twenty-two against eighteen in the year 1824; the general increase therefore in the two last years is about equal to twelve per cent. of this species of crime. Comparing the first and last year in the number of cases against property, an increase of only thirteen and a half per cent. is discernable, but if the number of parties concerned in the commission of these crimes is referred to, the increase will be found to have reached no less than ninety-four and a half per cent.; whilst comparing 1823 with 1825, the increase exhibited in the commission of nearly the same number of crimes is in the dreadful proportion of *one thousand and thirty-four* per cent.; but a yet more serious feature in the state of crime at that period is, that the proportion of convictions has diminished in very uneven ratio, the total number having fallen off from three hundred and ninety-six out of six hundred and fifty-four in 1824, to two hundred and twenty-one out of six thousand one hundred and thirty-seven, in 1825; so remarkable is the variation in this Zillah during the four years from 1823 to 1826, that it can only be justly estimated by exhibiting in a contrasted manner, the proportions that the convictions have borne to the parties committing crimes; in contrast they shew in

1823, Fourteen per cent.,
1824, Sixty and a half per cent.,
1825, Three and a half per cent.,
and 1826, Twenty-four per cent.,

in fact, the crimes in Mymensing in the year 1825 formed nearly one-third of the whole committed in the south-eastern portion of the country, or about one-sixth of those throughout Bengal in that year. The general average shews annually two hundred and three crimes committed by two thousand and ninety-seven individuals, of whom two hundred and thirty-seven were convicted or committed by the Magistrate, these last bearing the proportion therefore of eleven and a quarter per cent., whilst to each case there were 10.33 parties concerned and 1.16 convicted, exhibiting a marked disposition to the formation of large bodies or gangs of plunderers.

Turning to trifling offences and misdemeanors, there appears to be but slight variation, and that for the better, and the year that produced the least of these was 1825, so ripe with heavy crimes; the improvement between 1823 and 1826 is fifteen and a half in the number of cases, and thirteen and a half in the persons concerned, the convictions among them being thirty per cent. in the latter, and sixty per cent. in the former year, thus shewing clearly a falling off in efficient juridication, as clear as that exhibited in the more heinous branch, between 1824 and 1826, the average being for the four years forty-three per cent., whilst to each case there was 0.80 and of 1.88 persons concerned.

With the extraordinary predominance before exhibited of serious crimes, a general review is of little service, save as affording a curious, rather than an useful, comparison with other Zillahs; the range of cases presents one thousand four hundred and eight, as the annual average of the two first years, and one thousand two hundred and sixty-four as that of the two last; leading to the supposition of an improvement in crime, equal to ten per cent. were the cases alone considered, and uncontradicted by the immense increase, equal to eighty-four and a half per cent. in one year, in the number of parties concerned: whilst convictions which in the first two years were fifty per cent., were reduced in the two latter years to only eighteen per cent., the average of four years being annually one thousand one hundred and eighty-six out of four thousand three hundred and twenty-four, or about twenty-seven per cent., that is to say 0.86 for each case, whereto there were 3.12 parties, so that nearly five escape to two that are punished; whilst the proportion borne by

crimes of a serious character is, in cases, fourteen and a half per cent., but in persons forty-eight and a half per cent., to the total amount brought to notice of the authorities. Hence we are fully justified in classifying Mymensing as one of the worst districts in the country, both from the very large proportion of heinous offenders, and the small scale of convictions, satisfying the enquirer that combined with a natural disposition to crimes of magnitude, a defective juridication has encouraged their commission to a most serious extent during the period now reviewed.

DACCA will be found to be in numbers one of the worst class of districts, ranking in that respect immediately between Purneah and Tirhoot, and exhibiting a ratio of crime equal to one in two hundred and twenty-six of the inhabitants; of the whole four years, however, that of 1826 appears the worst, the ratio being one in one hundred and ninety-two. Only crimes against the person have regularly increased, being in 1824 fifty per cent. above what they were in 1823; in 1825 fifty-five per cent. above the number in 1824, and in 1826 fourteen per cent. above that again; so that increasing, as it has done, from six to sixteen cases, between 1823 and 1826, is in fact in the ratio of one hundred and sixty-six per cent., making the average of cases eleven in each year; whilst serious cases against property are one hundred and nineteen annually, and appear to have gradually decreased from one hundred and twenty-five in 1823 to one hundred and eight in 1826, or an improving ratio of thirteen and a half per cent., as respects the number of cases; but in the amount of offenders there is to be found an alarming increase from four hundred and twelve in 1823 to seven hundred in 1826, equalling sixty-nine and a half per cent., the annual average for the period now considered being four hundred and ninety-one; the proportion of convictions appear to have somewhat improved, being twenty-five per cent. in 1823, and rising to thirty-seven per cent. in 1826, the former ratio being nine per cent. above, and the latter equal to the general average of the respective years throughout the country; whilst the average of thirty-five per cent., or four and three-quarters beyond the general ratio, shews at least that this Zillah was not neglected during the period in question, as far as Magisterial juridication is concerned. The parties to each case having been 3.77, and the convictions appearing to have been 1.32.

In the department of offences and misdemeanors it will be observed, that between 1823 and 1825, a decrease had occurred equal to twenty-four per cent. in the number of cases, and twenty-two and a half per cent. in the offenders, but in the following year (1826) was wrought a considerable accession in both, making the difference between it and 1823, an increase of five per cent. in the cases, and three per cent. in the parties thereto; whilst convictions, that bore in 1823 the proportion of sixty-two and a half per cent., in 1826 fell to forty-five; it is just however to observe, that this is a trifle above the general ratio of the year, whilst the average of fifty-nine per cent. is considerably beyond the general results of such cases, being in the proportion of 1.16 to each case, whereto there were 1.95 parties.

In the general summary of cases of every description, there appears between 1823 and 1825, a decrease equal to twenty-one per cent. in the amount of cases, and nineteen per cent. in the offenders; but the increase before referred to in 1826, shews, between the first year and it, an increase of three and a half per cent. in cases, and ten and a half in offenders; or, with reference to the year (1825) immediately preceding, a rise of forty-two per cent. in the latter, and nearly thirty-two per cent. in the former; whilst convictions, which in 1823 bore the proportion of fifty-six per cent., after rising in 1825 to nearly sixty-six per cent., fell in 1826 to sixty per cent., this last however being nearly nineteen per cent. above the general ratio of that year: the average of the four years was annually 1,227, out of 2,263, or above fifty-two per cent. on all descriptions of offences, somewhere about thirteen and a half beyond the ratio of Bengal generally, and bearing to the cases in the proportion of 1.18 to one, whilst the parties concerned were in each case 2.18, so that the larger portion, or nearly six offenders out of eleven, received the reward of their offences, the proportion of serious crimes being twelve and a half per cent. in the number of cases, and twenty-one and a half per cent. in parties concerned. On the whole, this Zillah was not so bad as it would appear, since though the proportion of offenders to the inhabitants is great, they are chiefly concerned only in trifling matters, by which though the labours of the Magistrate may be increased, the loss to the public is small, and the satisfactory result of the convictions bearing so large a proportion to the cases,

shews that a satisfactory juridicature had been exercised during the four years of review.

Dacca Jelalpore is nearly as extensive in proportion of crime, as regards numbers, as the city jurisdiction and its neighbourhood, the average result having been one offender in two hundred and twenty-nine inhabitants, and this with the first year commencing with one in four hundred and twenty-three only, and gradually increasing to the extent shewn in the last year of fifty-five and a half per cent., or to one in one hundred and eighty-seven; the worst year of the series, however, is the second (1824,) when the ratio came down as low as one in one hundred and seventy-four, in which year there were twenty-one crimes against the person, against only six in the year immediately preceding. Comparing the first and last years, there will be found in this species of crime an increase equal to one hundred and fifty per cent. in the number of cases; whilst crimes against property shew a numerical falling off, equal to thirty-three and a half per cent. in the number of cases, the average annual number having been fourteen against the person, and seventy-four against property, wherein six hundred and fifty-two parties were concerned in this latter respect. The increase between 1823 and 1824 was fearful, being no less than two hundred and eighty-six per cent., the latter year exhibiting one thousand five hundred and forty-nine, and the former only four hundred and one; between this, however, and the year 1826, a slight decrease of nearly nine per cent. is perceptible, with exception to the year 1824, when six out of seven among these culprits escaped punishment. The ratio of convictions was highly favorable and improving, these having been in 1823 sixty per cent., and in 1826 sixty-nine per cent., the general ratio in Bengal being in the latter year thirty-seven, and in the former sixteen per cent.; the average of the four years is by the disproportion in the before mentioned disastrous year (1824,) reduced to nearly thirty-five per cent., yet this even is above the general ratio, which is only thirty and a quarter per cent. The parties to each crime appear on the average to have been 7.41, whilst the convictions were 2.66.

Adverting to the column of offences, it will be found, that these have been progressively increasing, both in number of cases and in the parties concerned, the latter being advanced one hundred thirty-nine and a half per

cent. between 1823 and 1826, and the former one hundred sixty-seven per cent., the average of cases being nine hundred and forty-seven annually, and of offenders 1898; the rate of convictions in 1823 having been only twenty-eight and three-quarters per cent., but which rose in 1826 to forty-seven and one third per cent., about four per cent. above the general average of the district's ratio of the four years, shewing the somewhat unfavorable proportion of thirty-five and a half per cent., or 0.71 to each case, the parties thereto having been two.

The following will appear therefore the general result of all cases: which will be found to increase from six hundred and twenty-nine in 1823 to one thousand four hundred and seventeen in 1826, being one hundred and twenty-five and a quarter per cent. Whilst the offenders increased from one thousand three hundred and eighty-nine to two thousand seven hundred and thirty-three, or above ninety-six and a half per cent., a state of things evidently calling for much attention, and hardly compensated by the increase of nearly thirteen per cent., or from thirty-seven and three-quarters to fifty per cent. in the convictions; though the average of the four years is still left below the range of the districts generally, being despite the high range in 1826, only thirty-five and a half per cent., or three per cent. lower than it ought to be, and only 0.87 to each case, the offenders being 2.46 each, so that nearly two escape out of three, whilst the proportion borne by crimes of a serious character to the general amount of all descriptions was eight and a half per cent. in cases, and twenty-five and a half per cent. in parties concerned, shewing the general tendency in Lower Bengal, as will be hereafter more clearly exhibited, to be rather for petty offences, save when higher crimes are effected by combination in large gangs.

SYLHET.—is in its extent of crime about an average district, the ratio being as one in three hundred and seventy-five inhabitants; comparing, however, the first and last years of the series, there will be found a serious depreciation, equal to about fifty-nine per cent., the intermediate years being nearly average ones, and this increase occurs almost equally in every description of offences, both heinous and otherwise. Crimes against the persons experienced very considerable increase; viz. from five cases in 1823, to seven-

teen in 1826, equal to two hundred and forty per cent. The year 1825, however, was yet worse than this last, producing no less than twenty-nine cases, nearly four per cent. of the crimes throughout the country in that year. The general average of four years, shewing an annual result of eleven cases. Other serious crimes began, in 1823, at one hundred and thirty-eight, and rose in the fourth year, one hundred and twenty-one per cent., to three hundred and five in 1826, or in crimes of both kinds one hundred and twenty-five per cent., the annual average being two hundred and twenty-nine cases, the parties to which were six hundred and sixty-six; in these last, the increase had risen between 1823 and 1826, to the enormous extent of two hundred and ninety per cent., the latter year shewing nine hundred and thirty-three, whilst in the former there were only two hundred and thirty-nine; whilst convictions, bearing then the ratio of fifty-six and a half per cent., sunk in 1826 to forty-six per cent. This, however, although a falling off as regards Sylhet, is nearly nine per cent. above the general proportion in Bengal during that year. The average of the four years too, is highly favorable as compared with that of the country, being forty-five and a half, whilst the general ratio is only thirty and a quarter per cent. The parties concerned in each case were 2.90, whilst the convictions amounted to a proportion of 1.32, or nearly one-half.

Among the offences also, an increase will be found to have occurred in the period under review, as these amounted in 1823 to five hundred and forty-two cases, wherein one thousand four hundred and thirty-nine persons were concerned; but advanced in 1826 to one thousand two hundred and fifty-four cases by three thousand two hundred and twelve individuals, thus increasing in cases one hundred thirty-one and a half per cent., and in persons concerned nearly one hundred and twenty-four per cent., the average being eight hundred and thirty cases by two thousand two hundred and twenty-one persons annually; whilst the convictions amounting in 1823 to forty-four and a quarter per cent., fell in 1826 to forty per cent., the average being in four years far less favorable than occurred for more serious crimes, and only about the same standard of forty per cent., the rate to each case being 1.06, whilst the parties were 2.67.

The general summary of cases shews an increase between 1823 and 1826 of

one hundred and thirty per cent. in the number of cases, and one hundred and forty-seven per cent. in persons, leaving the annual average one thousand and fifty-nine cases, by two thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven persons; the convictions having been in the first year of the series nearly forty-six per cent., and in the last forty-one and a half per cent.; and the general annual proportion of forty-one, about two fifths, or two and a half per cent., beyond the rate throughout the whole of the districts, among which this may therefore be considered to hold a fair average position, the convictions bearing as 1.12, and the persons concerned as 2.72 in each case; crimes of a serious nature bearing to the whole amount of offences a proportion of twenty per cent. in the number of cases, and twenty-three per cent. in the parties concerned in their commission.

Bakkurgunj holds an indifferent rank in the ratio of crime, there having been one criminal in four hundred and twenty-five of the inhabitants, and it will be found, that this state of things, bad as it is, had been gradually getting worse; the ratio in 1823 being one in three hundred and seventy-two, whereas in 1826, a depreciation equal to thirty-seven and a half per cent. had brought the ratio to one in one hundred and thirty-two. In crimes against the person, a considerable increase took place between 1823 and 1826, being in the former only ten cases, but increased sixty per cent. to sixteen cases in the latter. In 1825, however, the increase was two hundred per cent. over the first year of the series, or amounting to thirty cases, the average being eighteen per annum; on the other hand, heinous crimes against property had met a decrease from two hundred and twenty-seven in 1823, to one hundred and five in 1826, equalling nearly nine and three-quarters per cent.; between 1823 and its immediate successor, the decrease reached seventy and a half per cent., the number of cases being in that year only sixty-seven, the average annually in the four years being thereby reduced to one hundred and sixty-three. The parties to those two classes of crimes were in 1823, four hundred and forty-four in number; but in 1826, had increased thirty-five and a three-quarters per cent. to six hundred and three, the average being five hundred and eight annually; the convictions out of this number averaging four hundred and fourteen annually, or the highly favorable proportion of eighty-

one and a half per cent., more than fifty per cent. above the general average of Bengal, an advantageous position resulting from good legislation, that had been pretty well supported during the whole four years, having been in 1823. seventy-three and a half per cent., and in 1826 eighty per cent.; the intermediate years respectively ninety-one and three-quarters, and eighty-five and a quarter. The average number of offenders concerned in each case was 2.80. the convictions were 2.28, so that only about one-fifth of this description of offenders escaped the punishment of their crimes.

In the article of offences will be found an increase in the number of cases between 1823 and 1826, equal to two hundred and thirty per cent.. the annual average being seven hundred and twenty-seven, whilst the offenders had in the same period added two hundred and twenty-seven and a half per cent. to their numbers, making the annual average brought before the Magistrate, two thousand five hundred and thirty-one. The convictions in 1823. were fifty-three per cent.; but in 1826, amounted to only about nineteen per cent., the average of the whole period shewing in this branch of criminal jurisprudence a proportion of but thirty-nine per cent.; the chief attention of the authorities being thus shewn to have been absorbed in the suppression of the more serious crimes. The parties to each offences were 3.48, whilst convictions in this department were only 1.36.

Turning to the general summary of every description of case brought before the Magistrate, we find the increase between the first and last year to have been one hundred and eleven and a half per cent., and in offenders one hundred and eighty-one and a half, the former averaging annually nine hundred and eight, and the latter three thousand and thirty-nine. The favorable range of convictions shews for the whole period 58.96 per cent., chiefly, as had been already shewn, in the more heinous crimes, and 20.44 per cent. above the general ratio of the districts under review, being during the four years as follows:—

1823,	57¼	per cent. or	26	above the average of convictions in Bengal.
1824,	61½	,,	21	,,
1825,	64	,,	27	,,
1826,	54½	,,	13	,,

The proportion of convictions to each case were 1.97, and of parties concerned 3.34, whilst that of crimes to offences was nineteen and three-quarters per cent., in the number of cases, and sixteen and three-quarters per cent. in the parties concerned.

TIPPERAH AND NOAKOLLEE hold a middling rank among the districts as regards crime, but of this class they are among the best, the proportion of criminals having been one in five hundred and fifty-three. In the last year of the four, crime seems to have increased to the very serious extent of about forty-five per cent., the ratio being in 1824 one in six hundred and eighteen, and in 1826 one in three hundred and thirty-five. Between these two years in the column of crimes against the person, there is an increase in the latter of three hundred per cent., viz. from six to twenty-four cases, making the average cases of the period twelve annually; whilst cases of crime against property advanced from eighty-two to two hundred and fifty-five, or two hundred and eleven per cent., the annual average having been one hundred and sixty-two cases; the number of offenders under these two classes of crime had in like manner increased from seven hundred and eighty in 1823, to one thousand three hundred and twenty-seven in 1826, or a ratio of seventy per cent.; the rate of convictions had materially increased, however, in this period, being in 1826, nearly forty-four per cent., whilst in 1823, it was only about twenty-four, the two intermediate years exhibiting the yet more favorable ratio of sixty-one per cent., and the average consequently of the whole period equals forty-two and a quarter per cent., exceeding the general average of all districts by twelve per cent.; the convictions to each case having been 1.68, whilst the persons concerned were 3.97.

In the article of offences, there will be found an increase between 1823 and 1826, to the extent of nearly ninety-three per cent., both in the number of cases, in the number of persons thereto, the annual increase of the former shewing eight hundred and seventy-seven, and of the latter one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three. The convictions, which in 1823 were fifty-five per cent., fell in 1826 to forty-six and half, the proportion for the four years being forty-eight and a quarter per cent., this, although so much below the first year's rate, being nevertheless much above the ratio of Bengal

generally: the proportion to each case was 0.98 out of 2.04 persons concerned.

The summary of every description of cases shews the following result:—that cases had increased in the ratio of one hundred and six and three-quarters per cent., whilst the parties thereto had advanced eighty-four and a quarter per cent., the annual number of the former having been one thousand and fifty-one, and of the latter two thousand and thirty-one, of whom the convictions had been forty-six and a half per cent., in itself about five per cent. above the general rate of the country, but rendered more favorable by the fact of that of the first year having been only forty-four and quarter per cent., so that despite the vast increase in the number of offences in the last year of the series, this Zillah bore a very favorable aspect from the convictions more than keeping pace with this increase, and hence being calculated to produce a check upon the further extension of crime, as the number of convictions were in excess of the number of cases, being 1.10 to each among 2.36 offenders, of whom therefore only a few more than half escaped the consequences of their derelictions, even supposing all were guilty that had been apprehended; of these, the proportion of serious crimes bore in cases as sixteen and a half per cent., and in the parties concerned nearly twenty-eight per cent.

CHITTAGONG.—This too is a pretty fair Zillah as regards its extent of crime, for in the four years it carried only the proportion of one offender in five hundred and sixty-nine, although between the first and last years there was a slight depreciation, equal to about nineteen per cent., in this proportion. The annual average of crimes against the person was thirteen, having risen from nine in 1823 to sixteen in 1826, an advance equal to fifty-five per cent. in such cases; whilst in crimes against property, the increase had been four hundred and seven and a half per cent., leaving the annual ratio at thirty-eight only, the smallest in amount of any Zillah in Bengal, and eighty-eight per cent. below the average of the thirty districts included in this statement. Of the parties concerned in these two classes of crime, there had been an increase from one hundred and fifty-four in the first to five hundred and seventeen in the last year, being two hundred and thirty-five and a half per cent.; but between 1823 and

1824, the increase was much greater, being full three hundred and seventeen per cent., from which it had been falling in the two last years. Among these, the convictions in 1823 were a little above forty per cent., rising in 1826 to forty-two per cent., after having fallen in 1824 to only nineteen per cent., leaving the average of the four years at almost thirty-three per cent. The number of persons concerned were 9.00, in each case, a very large number, shewing the majority of such cases, must have been undertaken by large gangs, but of these 2.96 in every case were convicted.

Turning to the offences, it will be found that the cases amounted in 1823 to five hundred and seventy-nine by eight hundred and ninety-eight individuals; but in 1826 the latter had fallen off twenty-five and three-quarters per cent. or to six hundred and sixty-seven, and the former had increased about two per cent. to five hundred and ninety-one, the average shewing annually four hundred and ninety-eight by seven hundred and seventy-two individuals. The convictions in the first year amounted to twenty-five per cent., but in 1825 had fallen to twenty per cent.; this low rate, however, appears to have produced its natural consequence of reactive vigilance, for in 1826 the convictions again rose, and exceeded the reputed number of parties concerned to that year by nearly twelve per cent., the latter having been six hundred and sixty-seven, and the former seven hundred and forty-five, shewing clearly, that some of those that had escaped in former years, were in this brought to judgment; the average of the four years was forty-two and a quarter per cent., nearly equalling the average of Bengal, and being to each case 0.65, the parties whereto had been 1.55.

The general range of cases of every description was five hundred and forty-nine, commencing in 1823 with six hundred and one, and increased in 1826 to six hundred and seventy-three, the intermediate years being below either of these; the parties concerned rising only nineteen and a half per cent., or from one thousand and fifty-two in the first, to one thousand two hundred and fifty-eight in the last year, the annual average being one thousand two hundred and thirty-one, amongst whom the convictions bore the proportion of thirty-eight and a half per cent., shewing it to have been an exactly average district, the ratios having been in 1823 only twenty-seven and a quarter per cent., and in 1826, seventy six and half per cent. The parties

to each case appear to have been 2.24, and the convictions 0.87; whilst crimes bore the proportion of nine and a quarter per cent. in the number of cases, and thirty-seven and a quarter in the perpetrators, a rather large proportion of the latter for the lower districts, of which, however, this altogether forms a tolerable average, viewed generally in its extent of crime and juridication.

HOOGLEE is another moderate district, ranging as one offender in five hundred and nine inhabitants; the general ratio was however above this, and so far brought down by the year 1824, when the extent reached one in three hundred and eighty-three. The general amount of crimes against the person had been twelve cases in the year, the period beginning with that number, and only increased in the last year by twenty-five per cent.; whilst crimes against property, between 1823 and 1826, fell off twenty-six per cent. in the number of cases, and thirty-one and a quarter per cent. in the parties concerned; the annual result being one hundred and twenty-three cases by four hundred and seventeen persons, amongst whom the convictions were fifty-seven and a quarter per cent., just twenty-seven per cent. better than the general rate through the Presidency, having progressively advanced from forty-seven and three-quarters in 1823 to seventy-five per cent. in 1826, and hence maintaining promise of improvement: the parties to each case having been in the ratio of 3.39, and the convictions 1.94, nearly three-fifths.

Offences appear rather to have increased during the period in question; they were in 1823 seven hundred and ninety-one cases, by one thousand seven hundred and fifty-six parties, and in 1826 nine hundred and eighty-five cases, by two thousand one hundred and ninety-one, the difference being nearly twenty-five per cent. in the persons concerned, and twenty-four and one third per cent. in the number of cases. The year 1824, however, shews one thousand three hundred and twenty-seven of the latter, perpetrated by three thousand and forty-six persons, the annual average amount being brought up to nine hundred and eighty-five cases, by two thousand two hundred and thirteen, the convictions among whom were forty-two and three-quarters per cent. on an average proportion; both the first and last years, however, exceeded this ratio, the former shewing forty-four and a half per cent., and the latter forty-

seven and a half. The parties to each case having been 2.24, and the convictions 0.95.

Proceeding now to the general summary, it will be found, that the annual rate of cases had been one thousand one hundred and eight, and of offenders two thousand six hundred and thirty; whilst the convictions, being one thousand one hundred and eighty-four, bore the proportion of forty-five per cent., a rate exceeding that generally found in the Presidency by six and a half per cent.; but for the increase of crime and lax juridication however, in 1824 and 1825, when the convictions were forty-one and a half per cent. this rate would have most probably been higher, as the proportion in 1826 was fifty-one per cent., and the general proportion to the cases was 1.06 each, whereof the perpetrators were 2.37, the proportion of crimes to offences being in the number of cases eleven per cent., and fifteen and three-quarters per cent. in the parties concerned.

Burdwan appears to have been one of the worst Zillahs, only surpassed by Patna and the Twenty-four Purgunnahs, between which latter and it, the difference is hardly worth notice. The rate of offenders is one in one hundred and ninety-seven of the inhabitants; it may however be considered to have slightly improving to the extent of some eighteen per cent., the rate in 1823 having been one in one hundred and eighty-four, and in 1826 one in two hundred and seventeen: crimes against the person had been nine annually, beginning in the first year with seven, and ending in the last with eight, the highest, thirteen, having fallen in 1825. Those of a serious nature against property were ninety-one in 1823, and decreasing by six and a half per cent. in 1826 to eighty-five cases, the average, however, was one hundred and eleven, occasioned by the vast addition in 1825 of two hundred and twenty-four cases. The parties to these were in 1826 precisely the same as in 1823, viz. three hundred and eighty-eight, the annual amount being raised by the intermediate increase of crime, to four hundred and twenty-five annually, among whom the convictions bore a proportion of forty-six and three-quarters per cent., the progressive increase of the convictions, however, from nineteen per cent. in 1823 to seventy per cent. in 1826, shews that attention must have been paid by the authorities, by having in the last year raised the ratio as

much as thirty-three per cent. above the general average in Bengal during that year, maintaining too an excess equal to more than fifteen per cent. on the result of the four years, and being to every case 1.43, out of 3.24 concerned therein.

The annual average of offences shews one of the heaviest lists in the country, being no less than two thousand two hundred and sixteen, by five thousand five hundred and eighty-nine persons, and this has not experienced much alteration during the period under review; the difference between the first and last years being only sixteen and a half per cent. in number of cases, and sixteen and a quarter per cent. in persons concerned; but this being in decrease, is so far favorable, which position is further maintained by the number of convictions continuing the same in both years, although the offenders were fewer by nine hundred and ninety-three, whereby the rate of convictions was augmented from thirty to thirty-five per cent., the average, however, falls short of what it ought to have been in this department, being only twenty-eight per cent., or above fourteen less than the general ratio. The offenders convicted in each case appear to have been 0.71, and the parties concerned 2.52.

The general summary shews the annual range of cases of every description, as two thousand three hundred and forty-seven by six thousand and fourteen persons, among whom the convictions amounted to about twenty-nine and a half per cent., this low rate being, however, as has been exhibited above, entirely influenced by petty cases, the heinous ones shewing an increase in this respect. The decrease in cases generally, from 1823 to 1826, had been just sixteen per cent., and in offenders fifteen per cent., whilst the convictions were nine per cent. in 1826, above what they were in the first year, and the same ratio above the annual average. The proportion of convictions to each case was 0.75, and persons 2.46, whilst crimes bore to the general summary a ratio of five and a half per cent. in cases, and seven per cent. in parties thereto.

Bankorah, Ramghur, &c.—Considering the extent of ground, and the vast, though scattered population, no less than the extensive facilities offered to crime by the nature of the country and its extensive jungles, traversed as they are, by a main road to a distant part of the country, the state of crime

assumes a more favorable aspect even than the statement shews, though that places it amongst the best in the country, only surpassed indeed by three districts, the proportion of crime having been only one offender in six hundred and sixty-five inhabitants. It is to be regretted, however, that it had been falling off in character during the four years now considered, the ratio in 1823 having been one in eight hundred and two, and in 1826 one in five hundred and ninety-four, the unfavorable variation being equal to nearly twenty-six per cent. The proportion of heinous offences is great; those against the person having been thirty-three annually, and these had increased fifty per cent. from 1823 to 1826, whilst those against property had added sixty-five per cent. to the number of cases in the first year, the average number being one thousand and ninety-six annually, the parties in these two classes having augmented from two thousand two hundred and twenty-three in the first to three thousand two hundred and ninety-three, or in a ratio equal to forty-eight per cent.; leaving the annual number of offenders two thousand two hundred and eighty-eight, of whom the convictions bore the proportion of thirty-six and a half per cent., about five per cent. above the ratio of the country generally. They were, however, on the increase, having risen from seventeen and a quarter per cent. in 1823 to forty-four and quarter per cent. in 1826, being a numerical increase of eleven hundred and seventeen, or above two hundred and ninety-one per cent. The parties to each case of this description appear to have been 2.02, and the convictions 0.74, not quite three-eighths.

Offences had been proportionably less than in most districts, the average of cases being one thousand five hundred and thirty-five annually by nearly double the number of individuals. These rose from one thousand one hundred and two in 1823, to one thousand three hundred and forty-five cases in 1826, about twenty-two per cent., the higher annual ratio being caused by a rise to two thousand two hundred and forty-four in 1824, whilst the parties thereto, which were in the first year two thousand two hundred and fifteen, increased about twenty-two and a half per cent. by the last year, or to two thousand six hundred and ninety-two, among whom the convictions were fifty-two per cent., whilst in 1823 they were only thirty-six and a half per cent.; the annual ratio standing at a little above forty-nine per cent.,

being between six and seven per cent. above the general range in Bengal, and 0.98 to each case out of 1.34 parties thereto.

The summary shews, that there were altogether in each year two thousand six hundred and sixty-four cases by five thousand three hundred and fifty-one parties, ranging from two thousand one hundred and forty-eight cases by four thousand and thirty-eight persons in 1823, to three thousand and sixty-eight cases by five thousand nine hundred and eighty-five persons in 1826, being an increase in the parties equal to forty-three and quarter per cent., and in cases forty-two and three-quarters per cent.; whilst the convictions in the first year, twenty-six and three-quarters per cent., rose in the last to almost forty-nine per cent., making the annual rate forty-three and a half per cent.; which being but five per cent. above the general rate in the Presidency may be deemed a fair ratio, and on the whole places the district in a favorable posture in comparison with its neighbours: the rate of convictions to cases was 0.88 out of 2.01 parties to each, so that four out of nine offenders were duly dealt with. The proportion of crimes to offences bore the heavy rate of forty-two per cent. in the number of cases, and nearly forty-three in the amount of offenders.

The next district is the TWENTY-FOUR-PERGUNNAHS, including the SUBURBS OF CALCUTTA, and the present Joint Magistracy of BARASET, which, as was to be expected in the immediate vicinity of a large city, the metropolis of the country, and that moreover, under a different set of officers and a different law, is with the single exception of Patna, the worst division as respects crime in the Presidency, shewing a ratio of one criminal in one hundred and ninety-five inhabitants; this too was anything but improving, since the first year it was one in three hundred and seventy-seven, whilst 1826 exhibits a depreciation equal to forty-six per cent., or a fall to one in two hundred and three; crimes against the person remained during the period in question nearly stationary, the difference between 1823 and 1826 being only six and a half per cent., the only increase being in 1825, when from fifteen cases they rose to twenty-one, equalling forty per cent., but this fell again in the year following, leaving the annual average as sixteen cases; those against property being two hundred and eleven annually, these

were however on the increase in a ratio of one hundred and nineteen per cent. between the first and last years, being in the latter two hundred and ninety-nine against one hundred and thirty-three in the former; the parties to these two descriptions of crime had in like manner increased forty-six per cent. from five hundred and fifty-one in 1823 to eight hundred and nine in 1826, after having risen in 1825 as high as one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight, the average annually being nine hundred and eighty-one, among whom the convictions were four hundred and one, or forty and three-quarters per cent. These last in the first year were but thirty-one and a quarter per cent., but in the last rose to sixty-eight and a quarter per cent., more than double the number of 1823, as well as of the average of the year, the general range of forty and three-quarters being, moreover, above ten per cent. beyond the average of the Presidency generally, shews that much attention must have been devoted by the authorities to the suppression of crimes of these two descriptions, the proportion to each case being 1.77, and the persons concerned 4.32.

As might be expected from the position of this district, the offences were numerous, averaging annually one thousand and five hundred, having risen from seven hundred and eighty-eight in 1823 to two thousand and eighty-four in the last year of the series, and equalling an increase of one hundred and sixty-four per cent. in the number of cases, and above ninety-seven per cent. in the parties concerned, wherein the rise was from one thousand nine hundred and ninety-two to three thousand nine hundred and thirty-one, leaving the average annual amount, however, in consequence of the vast advance to five thousand eight-hundred and sixty-nine, at three thousand nine hundred and forty-five, among whom the convictions bore a ratio of only forty and a half per cent., but a moderate rate, as is generally the case where attention has been drawn off from these cases by activity in suppression of the more serious ones; the more observable from the circumstance of convictions in the four years having fallen off from almost ninety-three per cent. to forty-five per cent, the intermediate years having exhibited only twenty-eight per cent., whilst those among crimes have increased as above shewn, the convictions to each case having been 1.06, and the parties thereto 2.63.

Adverting now to the summary of all crimes and offences, there will be found to have been one thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven, by four thousand and twenty-six individuals, rising from nine hundred and thirty-six cases in 1823, to two thousand three hundred and ninety-nine in 1826, about one hundred and fifty-six per cent., and in persons concerned. eighty-six and a half per cent., that is to say, from two thousand five hundred and forty-three to four thousand seven hundred and forty, and the convictions ranging from seventy-nine and a quarter per cent. in 1823, to forty-nine and a quarter per cent. in 1826, making annually some forty and a half per cent., a trifle above the average in Bengal, the proportion being in fine 1.16 to each case, the parties whereto were 2.85, whence it appears only three-fifths went unpunished. The proportion of crimes appears to have been about thirteen per cent. in the number of cases, and thirty-five per cent. in offenders, leaving, however, of the convictions, a ratio amounting to twenty per cent.

Jessore appears as an average district, the proportion having been one offender in three hundred and fifty-seven, the variation between the first and last years being too trifling to notice, and both better than in the two intermediate ones. In crimes against the person, the increase had been progressive and most serious, being no less than seven hundred and thirty-six per cent., and rising from eleven in the first to ninety-two in the last year, the annual average shewing thirty-seven; at the same time, crimes against property had decreased from one hundred and seventy-three, to one hundred and fifty-four, or eleven per cent., but in the second year under review, these fell as low as sixty-five cases only, whence the average per annum was sixteen and three-quarters per cent. below the number in the first year, being one hundred and forty-four. Of the parties concerned in these two descriptions of crime, the number in 1823 was six hundred and ninety one, but in the following year, rose a hundred and thirty-five per cent., the final difference between the first year and 1826, was however, only about thirty-seven per cent. of increase, the amount of that year having again, after two years of high ratio fallen to nine hundred and forty-nine, above twenty-five per cent. below the annual average of one thousand one hundred and eighty-nine, among whom the convictions bore the

vast disproportion of only 16.31 per cent., ranging through the four years as follows:

1823, Seventeen per cent.
1824, Thirteen and a half ditto,
1825, Seventeen and a half ditto,
1826, Eighteen ditto,

the proportion to the cases being however 1.07, and the low ratio arising from the number (6.57) concerned in each case.

The offences exhibit a range from eight hundred and eighty-five cases by two thousand two hundred and sixty-six individuals in 1823, to eight hundred and eighty cases, and one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven parties in 1826, the former shewing so little difference as not to receive notice, and the latter a decrease equal to eleven and three-quarters per cent.; the convictions in the first year were only twenty-three and a quarter per cent., but rose in 1826 to thirty-eight and three-quarters per cent., an improvement it is true, but still below the general ratio of the year; the annual average of the terms included in this statement shews eight hundred and twenty-seven cases, in which two thousand one hundred and twenty-four parties were concerned, with six hundred and ninety-two convictions, about thirty-two and a half per cent. 0.84 to each case, whereto there were 2.56 parties.

The summary is the next for consideration, and exhibits the increase in cases between 1823 and 1826 to be only five and a quarter per cent., the annual average having been one thousand and eight, whilst that in parties concerned appears to have decreased something less than a half per cent.; the intermediate years, however, being twenty-four per cent. above the year 1823, leave the average as three thousand three hundred and thirteen annually, the convictions during the period rising from only about twenty-two per cent. to thirty-two, the annual average being but twenty-six and a half per cent., a state of things very unsatisfactory, especially as the extent of population in the square mile is 4.41 below the general average of the country. The convictions to each case bore the proportion of 0.87, and the parties 3.28, so that three-fourths were acquitted, whilst crimes held as nearly eighteen per cent. of the number of cases, and about thirty-six per cent. in the parties concerned.

Nuddea was during this period in apparently good order, being only one offender in five hundred and ninety-four inhabitants, but like its predecessor, it shews a predominance of crimes against the person: the proportion during the first and last years was even more favorable than the average, having been respectively one in six hundred and forty-nine, and one in six hundred and fifty-nine. The reports shew a great increase of affrays in this Zillah during 1826, as well as has been seen in Jessore, whence crimes against the person amounting in 1823 to twelve, having in the last year exceeded that number by six hundred per cent., the total then having been eighty-four cases, whence the annual average was thirty, or five every two months; crimes against property were on the decline, the last year being no less than twenty-five per cent. below its immediate predecessor, and nearly ten below the first of the series; the annual amount of such crimes was one hundred and ninety. Despite the increase in the total number of crimes of these two descriptions being rather more than twelve per cent., the number of parties concerned in their commission appears between 1823 and 1836 to have decreased seventeen per cent., but as between 1823 and 1824 there is a difference of three hundred and six, if we take that year, or one thousand four hundred and twenty-four, as the point of starting, there will be found a progressive decrease of about nine and a half per cent. in 1822, and twenty-eight per cent. from that to 1826; the difference between 1824 and 1826, being four hundred and ninety-seven, or above thirty-four per cent., the annual number having been one thousand one hundred and eighty-eight, among whom the convictions amounted to thirty and a half per cent., about an average rate. These range through the several years as follows:

1823, Thirty-one and a half per cent.,
1824, Thirty-one and a half ditto,
1825, Twenty-six and three-quarters ditto,
1826, Thirty-three ditto,

whence the last year exhibits promise of improvement, averaging to each case 1.64 out of 5.40.

Offences during the four years were few in number, the annual number averaging three hundred and ninety-three cases, and ranging only seventeen and a half per cent., from three hundred and forty in 1823 to four hundred

in 1826, whilst the parties thereto ran from seven hundred and eleven in the first year to eight hundred and seventy-three, a range of twenty-two and three-quarters per cent., leaving the annual average eight hundred and eleven; the convictions standing below the average of the Presidency, were only thirty-nine and a half per cent., but in this department the variation between the two extreme years is unfavorable, the first year having been forty-seven and a quarter per cent., and in the last only thirty-one per cent.; the average to each case appears to have been 0.81, and in parties 2.06.

The summary shews the annual number of cases six hundred and thirteen by one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine individuals: the parties concerned in the first and last years varying but little more than one and a half per cent., and that favorably; but increasing between the first and second years nearly twenty-nine per cent., whilst the cases increased from 1823 to 1826, in a ratio of about fifteen and a half per cent., whilst the convictions in that space of time had fallen from thirty-seven to thirty-two; the average amount, however, seems to have been reduced by the great decrease of convictions in 1824 to twenty-seven per cent., eleven below the general ratio in Bengal, and being to each case only 0.88 out of 3.26; the proportion of crimes appears to have been nearly thirty-six per cent. in the number of cases, and fifty-nine and a half in the number of the parties concerned, a large proportion which was chiefly influenced by the predominance of crimes against the person, occasioned by affrays occurring in disputes regarding the boundaries of accremations, every year altering from the effects of the inundation; and in disagreements between indigo planters.

MIDNAPORE seems to have the best character of all the Zillahs in regard to the extent of known crimes, the proportion having been only one in one thousand five hundred and six inhabitants, the variation between each year being but trifling. Crimes against the person had annually amounted to fifteen, beginning with sixteen in 1823, and falling by 1826 to nine cases only, whilst crimes against property decreased on the like period fifty-six per cent. viz. from two hundred and twenty-nine to one hundred cases, the parties to these two kinds of crime having fallen only one per cent., was annually four hundred and ninety-eight; the convictions, however, had improved from twelve

and three-quarters per cent. in 1823, to fifty and a quarter per cent. in the last year of the series, making the favorable average result of thirty-six per cent., being exactly one to each case, out of 2.76 concerned in its perpetration.

The number of offences in each year averaged three hundred and fifty-one, the parties concerned being seven hundred and seventy-six; the first and last years were too nearly alike to require particular observation, whilst the general ratio of convictions bore as forty and a half per cent., and were respectively in 1823 thirty-one per cent., and in 1826 thirty-four, but rose in 1824 to nearly forty-eight per cent. The proportion to each case having been 0.89 out of 2.38.

The summary exhibits five hundred and thirty-one cases in the year by one thousand two hundred and seventy-four persons, ranging in the former from five hundred and fifty-five, to four hundred and seventeen, a decrease of twenty-four and three-quarters per cent., while the latter were nearly the same in both 1823 and 1826. The convictions in the first of these years were about twenty-three per cent., and in the last forty-one, the annual ratio having been nearly thirty-nine per cent., a fair average rate, and about 0.93 to each case out of 2.39. The proportion of crimes, however, was rather high, bearing as thirty-three and three-quarters per cent. of the cases, and thirty-nine of parties concerned, shewing the people to be but little given to petty quarrels, &c., as well as moderate in the extent of crimes as compared with other districts.

North and South Cuttack form together the last district included in the statement of Bengal, and is one of the best of the middle class, the proportion of offenders having been one in five hundred and seventy-one inhabitants, but appears on the decline, since the average of the two first years having been one in eight hundred and eighty-nine, was fifty-eight per cent. on the unfavorable side. The most serious increase appears in the department of crimes against the person, the annual average annually having been one hundred and forty-six cases, commencing with only seventeen in 1823; but rising in 1826, to one hundred and ninety-five; the number of cases of crime against the person too were annually eight hundred and fifty-six, having been in the first year nine hundred and eighty-six, falling nearly thirty-eight per cent. in 1825, to six hundred and twelve, and again rising thence in the following year some fifty-

eight per cent.; thus making the first and last of the four years nearly alike, whilst the parties concerned in these two descriptions of crime were annually one thousand nine hundred and twenty, ranging at an increase of no less than ninety-seven per cent., from one thousand eight hundred and thirteen in 1823, to three thousand five hundred and seventy-four in 1826. In this last year, twenty-eight and a half per cent. was the extent of the convictions, having risen from fifteen per cent. in the former year; in consequence, however, of the ratio in the two intermediate years being higher even than either of the extreme years, one of them even exceeding fifty-six per cent., the annual proportion had been thirty-two and a quarter per cent., about 0.62 to each case out of 1.91, being not quite one of three offenders.

Offences amounted to an annual rate of eight hundred and sixty-one; the parties thereto were one thousand five hundred and fifty-eight, having in 1823 been one thousand one hundred and forty-two by two thousand and sixty-eight, but falling in the following year seventy-one per cent. in both, and again rising in the two following years, made the difference between 1823 and 1826 a decrease of seven per cent. in cases, and fourteen and a half per cent. in parties concerned. The convictions rising in the period from nearly twenty-two to above thirty-four per cent., the annual proportion averaging twenty-seven per cent., or 0.49 out of 1.88 in each case.

Turning to the summary, the cases appear to have amounted to one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and the parties concerned to three thousand four hundred and seventy-eight; a comparison of the first with the last year, exhibiting an increase in the latter, equal to forty-five per cent., and in the former to about three and a half per cent., whilst the proportion of convictions had more than kept pace with this advance, and increased twelve per cent.; viz. from eighteen to thirty in the hundred, the annual amount having been equal to very nearly forty-one per cent., a fair average ratio maintaining its position as before stated, as one of the best of the middle class of districts; of these the convictions to each case appear to have been 0.76 out of 1.86 parties. There is, however, one point in disfavor as regards this district in comparison with most others, and that is, the large proportion of heinous offences, bearing in cases fifty-three and three-quarters per cent., and in offenders concerned therewith fifty-five per cent., or about half in each.

CHAPTER V.

Summary of Crimes in the fifteen Districts, forming the South-eastern part of the Bengal Presidency.

	Extent.			Crimes.					Offences, &c.			Total.			
				Cases.											
	Square Miles	Population	Population per Square Mile.	Against the Person	Against Property.	Total	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases	Concerned	Convictions, &c.	Cases	Concerned.	Convictions.	Proportion of Offenders to Population
2d Div.	90,697	19,521,180	215 21												
1823,	...	...	...	166	3,981	4,047	10,735	2,855	12,181	27,731	11,834	16,528	38,466	14,689	507
1824,	...	...	...	251	2,540	2,791	11,160	3,872	15,797	35,834	11,067	18,588	46,994	17,939	415
1825,	...	...	...	408	3,990	4,398	19,109	5,769	13,180	32,623	11,768	17,578	51,732	17,537	377
1826,	...	...	...	573	4,795	5,368	16,300	6,844	17,130	36,988	11,826	22,498	53,283	21,660	366
Total, ...	...	...	...	1,398	15,206	16,604	57,304	19,490	58,588	133,171	52,495	75,192	190,4[illegible]5	71,825	
Average,..	...	...	...	349½	3,801½	4,151	14,325	4,832	14,647	33,293	13,124	18,798	47,619	17,956	410

The conclusion of the lower fifteen Zillahs brings us to a review of that division of the country in its criminal state from 1823 to 1826, and it will be found, that in seven of the Zillahs, the ratio of crime exceeded one in four hundred, whilst in six, it fell below one in three hundred, the general range having been however, eighteen per cent. better than the previous division, although so far the larger in extent as to exceed that by forty per cent., the area being ninety thousand six hundred and ninety-seven square miles, the Zillahs ranging from one thousand eight hundred and seventy to twenty-nine thousand four hundred and ninety, with a population varying from one hundred and twenty to five hundred and eighty-nine to the square mile, exceeding its predecessor in this respect by twelve per cent., and amounting in the aggregate to nineteen million five hundred and twenty-one thousand one hundred and eighty souls, the general average per square mile being two hundred and fifteen and a quarter, about twenty-six per cent. below that of the more northern

division. The proportion of crimes in these fifteen Zillahs had been, during the four years under review, one in four hundred and ten inhabitants, shewing better than the preceding fifteen districts by eighteen per cent. as before noticed, but the range has been during the period in question much greater and less favorable, being a depreciation equal to thirty-eight and a half per cent. between the first and last years, and this becoming progressive during the whole four, was in 1823, one in five hundred and seven; in 1824, one in four hundred and fifteen; in 1825, one in three hundred and seventy-seven; and in 1826, one in three hundred and sixty-six; so that the second is twenty-two per cent. worse than the first, the third ten per cent. worse than the second, and the fourth three per cent. worse than the third.

Taking a review of the divisions of offences during the period referred to, it will be found that crimes against the person had greatly increased from year to year, since the advance in 1824 was fifty-one per cent. above its predecessor; in 1825, sixty-two per cent. beyond 1824; and in 1826 again sixteen per cent. above what they were in 1825; the entire increase between the first and last year was from one hundred and sixty-six cases to five hundred and seventy-three, or to the enormous extent in this short period of *two hundred and forty-five per cent.*, the annual average of such cases being three hundred and forty-nine, which it will be observed, is nearly fifty-two per cent. beyond that in the North-western division. The cases of a serious nature against property after falling between 1823 and 1824 thirty-four per cent., rose again in 1825 to somewhat above the amount in 1823, and the following year experienced a yet further advance of eight hundred and five cases, making the difference between the first and last years of the series nearly twenty-four per cent., the average of each year shewing three thousand eight hundred and one cases. This is, however, nearly forty-five per cent. below the amount in the North-western division, and exhibits on the part of the people in Lower Bengal, a less disposition to the commission of extensive crimes, requiring bold daring, than in the province of Behar and its immediate vicinity, although it appears that these crimes were on the increase in Lower Bengal, whilst they were lessening in the other division. The summary of the whole cases of crimes although exhibiting an advance in the difference between the first and last

years of thirty-two per cent., shews an average very nearly similar in amount to the first year, being four thousand one hundred and fifty-one cases, although in the last year it was above twenty-nine per cent. beyond this average, which amounts to one case to four thousand seven hundred and three inhabitants; of these, crimes against the person bore in the ratio of one to fifty-five thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, and against property one in five thousand one hundred and thirty-five, the former constituting about eight and a half per cent. of the whole.

The parties concerned in the commission of these crimes varied, during the first three years, some seventy-eight per cent., though in the last year, they again fell from the number in 1825 nearly fifteen per cent., thus leaving the total increase of offenders between 1826 and 1823 as nearly fifty-two per cent., the latter shewing ten thousand seven hundred and thirty-five, and the former sixteen thousand three hundred individuals; the latter amount however, was nearly fourteen per cent. above the average amount of fourteen thousand three hundred and twenty-eight, making the parties to each case amount to 2.94, about eighteen per cent. more than in the North-western division.

The column of convictions on account of these crimes, exhibits throughout the four years a regular progressive increase, those of 1824 exceeding in number the preceding year's result by thirty-six per cent., whilst in 1825 they advanced again forty-nine per cent., and in 1826, exceeded these by eighteen per cent., the entire numerical increases between 1823 and 1826 being upwards of a hundred and thirty-nine per cent., whilst in proportion to the parties concerned, each year bore as follows: —

1823, Twenty-six and a half per cent.
1824, Thirty-four and three-quarters ditto,
1825, Thirty and a quarter ditto,
1826, Forty-two ditto;

a rate of increase, that proves no little exertion to have been used on the part of the Authorities in the suppression of crime, and which is calculated to repress its extension, by increasing the danger of its commission; the general average of convictions, four thousand eight hundred and thirty-two out of

fourteen thousand three hundred and twenty-eight, being nearly thirty-four per cent., so that one out of every three meets the just punishment of his crime, whilst to every case, the convicted bear the proportion of 1.16.

Turning to offences, it appears that the average of cases, fourteen thousand six hundred and forty-seven in each year is nearly twelve per cent. below the amount in the North-western division, but then during the four years instead of diminishing, as in that quarter, fourteen per cent., they had here been increasing between 1823 and 1826, thirty-seven per cent. The parties concerned too in these cases had increased in the period above thirty-three per cent., being in the last year thirty-six thousand nine hundred and eighty-three, whilst the general average was thirty-three thousand two hundred and ninety-three, or 2.27 to each case, whilst the convictions were only in the proportion of 0.89, averaging thirty-nine per cent., or thirteen thousand one hundred and twenty-four annually; the numerical increase of convictions, however, had been, between 1823 and 1826, some twenty-five per cent.; but the great increase of offenders had prevented these additional convictions from even keeping pace with their number, since in the latter year they amounted to only forty per cent., whilst in the former they equalled forty-two and a half per cent.

The chief key to the history of crime in the division now under review, must be found in the total of all classes of cases brought before the Magistrates; in this it will be found that the number of cases, with the single exception of the year 1825, progressively increased in number, having been in 1824 about twelve and a half per cent. more than in 1823, and in 1826, twenty-one and a half per cent. above those of 1824, whilst the total increase between 1823 to 1826 had been from sixteen thousand five hundred and twenty-eight, to twenty-two thousand four hundred and ninety-eight, or about thirty-six per cent., making the average number of cases eighteen thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, of which crimes of a serious complexion held a proportion equal to twenty-two and a half per cent., being seven and a half less than that holding in the North-western division during the same period, and hence this may be considered so far to bear a favorable aspect.

During the period that the above has been the result with reference to the number of cases, the offenders concerned in them had been in the average ratio of 2.53 to each case, this proportion ranging, however,

From 2.32 in 1823
to 2.58 „ 1824
to 2.94 „ 1825 and
to 2.36 „ 1826,

thus shewing an increase in the proportion of offenders to each case of twenty-six per cent. between 1823 and 1825, and a subsequent decrease of nineteen and three-quarters per cent. in the following year, still however, leaving the last one and three-quarters per cent. above the first year of the series in this respect. The average number of offenders amounts, it will be seen, to forty-seven thousand six hundred and nineteen annually, but the year 1826 had been nearly twelve per cent. above this number, it then amounting to fifty-three thousand two hundred and eighty-three persons, to which it had progressively advanced from thirty-eight thousand four hundred and sixty-six in 1823, the advance having been in 1824 twenty per cent.; in 1825 ten per cent above this; and in 1826 again advancing three per cent., thus bringing the total advance between 1823 and 1826 to thirty-eight per cent., a fearful increase, that leads to a conclusion little favorable to the exertions of the Authorities.

Of the convictions, the summary in no single year shews the proportion of one to each case, although nearly amounting to that proportion in 1825, when they were seventeen thousand five hundred and thirty-seven to seventeen thousand five hundred and seventy-eight cases, the other years reached scarcely in 1823, 0.88 to each case, and in 1824 and 1826, 0.96, the general average proportion to each case during the four years bearing as 0.95. In number, however, they progressively increased, with exception to the year 1825, which experienced a trifling falling off, too small however to deserve particular notice, the ratio of increase having been as follows:—

In 1824, Twenty-two per cent., and
„ 1826, Twenty and three-quarters ditto.

The chief point for consideration, however, with regard to the convictions, is undoubtedly the proportion they have borne to the number of offenders, and

these average thirty-seven and three-quarters per cent. during the four years, ranging, however, through the several years as follows:—

In 1823, and „ 1824, } Thirty-eight per cent.
„ 1825, Thirty-three and three-quarters ditto,
„ 1826, Nearly forty-one ditto,

the last year being fully three per cent. above the average.

In conclusion, this summary shews, that crimes were twenty-two per cent. in the entire number of cases; thirty per cent. in the whole of the parties concerned, and occupied almost twenty-seven per cent. of the convictions; being thus, eight per cent. less in proportion of cases, and five per cent. less in the number of parties concerned, but one per cent. more in the proportion of convictions than in the other division, yet even this shews that more care should have been paid to bringing culprits of this class to punishment, although it is so far satisfactory, and improving on the North-western division that the proportion of convictions should have exceeded the proportion of cases by five per cent.; yet as they still fell short by three per cent. in the proportion of parties concerned, it remains evident that much was left to be done, and that there was ample room at the close of the period for increased vigilance and reform.

The subject is now brought to that branch which exhibits the proportion of work performed in these fifteen Zillahs by the several Magistrates, and making allowances as before in the other division for the days on which the courts are closed, it will be found, that the average of cases disposed off each day had been considerably less than in the other division, and should have been four and one-third, the parties to which would have been about eleven, respecting whom there must have been on an average two witnesses each, besides prosecutors, making some thirty-eight examinations daily, besides other business as before described; but individual districts greatly exceed this average, such for instance are Baukorah, where the daily cases exceeded nine, and the parties concerned were eighteen; Burdwan, where the cases were eight and the parties twenty-one; and the 24-Pergunnahs,

where the parties concerned were each day seventeen; yet these did not surpass the average of what they were in the other division, and in some other districts it is to be observed, such as Chuttagong and Midnapore, the amount did not exceed two cases, and four individuals daily. This subject will, however, be again adverted to in the next chapter.

CHAPTER VI.

General Summary of the Bengal Presidency, with a comparison in the State of Crime, &c. with England, &c.

	Extent			Crimes					Offences, &c.			Total			
				Cases											
	Square Miles	Population	Population per square mile	Against the person	Against property	Total	Concerned	Convictions, &c.	Cases	Concerned	Convictions, &c.	Cases	Concerned	Convictions	Proportion of offenders to population
1823,	...	...	...	322	13,989	14,311	32,168	5,121	30,061	61,435	25,01[illegible]	44,372	93,603	30,141	[illegible]
1824,		.	...	441	6,683	7,124	21,374	8,471	31,379	71,768	30,716	[illegible]	96,112	39,217	[illegible]
1825,		..	...	749	10,075	10,824	36,794	12,108	28,413	63,186	25,059	39,237	99,980	37,167	[illegible]
1826,	...	.	..	807	12,032	12,839	31,793	13,016	32,173	67,782	27,506	45,012	102,575	40,552	560
Total ..	...	...	...	2,319	42,779	45,098	128,129	38,719	125,025	264,171	108,328	170,123	392,300	147,077	
Average .	154,453	36,918,765	239 03	579¾	10,695	11,275	32,032	9,687	31,256	66,04[illegible]	27,082	42,531	98,07[illegible]	36,769	[illegible]

The general review of the Presidency forms the most correct foundation for calculation as to the state of crime, and it is that alone which can in its average bear comparison with other countries. In its general conclusions as

regards almost every branch of these statements, it exhibits an unfavorable aspect in the criminal condition of the country, the increased proportion of crimes to the inhabitants having been in 1824 two and a half per cent. worse than in 1823; in 1825 nearly four per cent. in depreciation of that year; and in 1826 two and one-third per cent. worse than in 1825. The general result of the four years being, that criminals exist in the proportion of one in three hundred and seventy-six among a population of two hundred and thirty-nine to the square mile, the entire aggregate on the one hundred and fifty-four thousand four hundred and fifty-three square miles of area, having been thirty-six million nine hundred and eighteen thousand seven hundred and sixty-five souls.

The most remarkable feature in the state of crime during these four years is the vast increase of crimes against the person, rising from three hundred and twenty-two in 1823, to eight hundred and seven in 1826, an advance of no less than a hundred and fifty per cent., and this by regular progression through each year advancing in

1824, Thirty-seven per cent.,
1825, Sixty-nine and a half ditto, and
1826, Seven and a half ditto,

making the average five hundred and eighty cases annually, and seventy-nine and three-quarters per cent. above the number recorded in the first year. Other heinous offences against property bore a more favorable aspect, the number of cases having been in 1826 nearly fourteen per cent. less than in 1823, the average number of ten thousand six hundred and ninety-five, being however, twenty-three and a half per cent. below the amount in the first year; the records shewing the extraordinary fall from thirteen thousand nine hundred and twenty-six in 1826, to six thousand six hundred and eighty-three in 1824, whence they rose in the two following years to ten thousand and seventy-five, and twelve thousand and thirty-two cases respectively. This of course affects in like manner the general amount of both descriptions of crimes, which averaged eleven thousand two hundred and seventy-five cases annually. The parties concerned in the perpetration of these crimes, have varied considerably during the four years under review, amounting in 1823 to thirty-two thousand one hundred and sixty-eight, whence in 1824, they fell about twenty-four per cent. to twenty-

four thousand three hundred and seventy-four—from this, in 1825, they again experienced a rise of almost fifty-one per cent., and reached thirty-six thousand seven hundred and ninety-four; and again in 1826, they fell nearly five and a half per cent. to thirty-four thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, whence comparing individual years, the difference between the first and last years exhibits an increase of offenders equal to eight per cent., the former being nearly an average year, the ratio of the foregoing thirty-two thousand one hundred and sixty-eight offenders annually, and leaving the ratio to each case therefore at 2.84: this however, varied considerably during the four years, having been in

1823,	2.25
1824,	3.42
1825,	3.39
1826,	2.71

whence it is clear, that although the number of cases decreased so remarkably in 1824, yet it was at the expence of greater disposition among bad characters to form combinations of number for the commission of crime, which the exertions of the last two years have only succeeded in reducing twenty per cent., leaving the proportion still twenty per cent. above what it had been in the first year.

The convictions for these crimes exhibit numerically a progressive increase from year to year, those in

1824, Exceeding those in 1823, by sixty-five per cent.
1825, Ditto ditto 182 by forty-three ditto,
1826, Ditto ditto by seven and three-quarters ditto;

the entire advance between 1823 and 1826 having been a hundred and fifty-four per cent. The annual average of convictions had been during the four years nine thousand six hundred and eighty-seven, the proportion to the parties concerned being only thirty per cent.; this ranges however as follows:—

1823, Nearly sixteen per cent.
1824, Nearly thirty-five per cent.
1825, Above thirty-two per cent., and
1826, Thirty-seven per cent.

whence, the last being the highest ratio, and seven per cent. beyond the general

average, augurs well for the prospect of improvement, since it appears that whilst in 1813, twenty-one offenders out of twenty-five escaped punishment; in 1826, four out of eleven were brought to conviction; the average having been nearly three out of ten. These convictions, with exception to the first year, when they bore only the proportion of 0.35, were above one to each case, being successively in

1824,	1.19
1825,	1.12
1826,	1.00

to each case; the average being, however, in consequence of the defalcation of the first year, reduced to 0.85, whereas had the average been calculated at the last three years only, the proportion would have been 1.04 to each case, the parties thereto averaging 3.11.

The total amount of cases of offences averaged during the four years thirty-one thousand two hundred and fifty-six, maintaining throughout each a tolerably even ratio, excepting only in 1824, when there was an excess amounting to nearly ten per cent., but this was equalized by a decrease in the year immediately succeeding, of about nine per cent.

The same remark applies pretty nearly to the number of the parties concerned, which averaged sixty-six thousand and forty-three annually, the variation between the first and last years shewing an increase, however, of about ten per cent. by the latter period, that having been 2.63 per cent. above, whilst the former year was seven and a half below the average.

Although there may be observed a small numerical increase in the convictions under this head equal to nearly ten per cent. between 1823 and 1826, the latter being an average year, and although the increase in the second year was in number still greater, being more than twenty-two per cent. on its predecessor, yet in no one year of the series did they equal the number of cases ranging with reference to them as follows:—

1823,	0.83
1824,	0.86
1825,	0.88
1826,	0.85

the general average being about 0.87 to each case. On the other hand, however, viewing them in reference to the parties concerned, the proportion appears far more favorable, shewing in

1823, ...	Forty per cent.
1824, ...	Forty-three per cent.
1825, ...	Thirty-nine per cent.
1826, ...	Forty-one per cent.

whilst the general average of twenty-seven thousand and eighty-two bore the ratio of forty-one per cent., the range having been throughout nearly the same, about two out of five convicted; from this we arrive in the order of the statement at the general summary of all descriptions of crime, which shews an average of forty-two thousand five hundred and thirty-one cases, and of the several years it will be observed, 1824 and 1825 were respectively 2.42 and 7.74 per cent. below this average, whilst 1823 was 4.33, and 1826 5.83 per cent. above it, the difference between the first and last years resting in individual comparison, at an advance on the former of 1.44 per cent. Proceeding to the number of offenders concerned in the perpetration of the above cases, it will be observed, that these have gradually advanced from ninety-three thousand six hundred and three in 1823, to one hundred and two thousand five hundred and seventy-five, equalling some nine and a half per cent. and this has gradually risen to that amount year by year, having been in

1824, ...	2.71	above 1823,
1825, ...	6.81	„ ditto,
1826, ...	9.58	„ ditto,

The annual average of offenders shewing ninety-eight thousand and seventy-five in all the districts, and being to each case, in

1823, ...	2.11
1824, ...	2.31
1825, ...	2.55
1826, ...	2.28

whilst the average had borne the same ratio of 2.31, as appears in the second year, and exhibits an increase in the proportion of each case from 1823 to 1825, of about twenty and a half per cent., and a subsequent falling off in the last

year (1826) of sixteen per cent.: this last, however, being still eight per cent. above what was the ratio of the first year, yet so far favorable, that it was one and a third per cent. less than the general average.

Throughout the whole four years, not one exhibits the proportion of one conviction to each case, the highest having been in 1825, when it reached 0.95 to each case, the average shewing in the four years 0.86. In a numerical view, the number of convictions had advanced, between 1823 and 1826, about thirty-four and a half per cent., that is to say, from thirty thousand one hundred and forty-one in the former year, to forty thousand five hundred and fifty-two in the latter year, the general annual average of convictions having been in number thirty-six thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine.

But to view the convictions any otherwise than with reference to the number of offenders leads to endless speculation, their average in this respect during the four years under review, bears the proportion of about thirty-seven and a half per cent.; but this had successively ranged throughout the four years as follows:—

In 1823, ... Thirty-two per cent.
" 1824, ... Forty and a half ditto,
" 1825, ... Thirty-seven ditto,
" 1826. .... Thirty-nine and one third ditto.

Hence the advance between the first and last year was in the proportion of more than seven per cent., and the last year of the four being about two per cent. above the general average, augurs a slightly advancing activity on the part of the Authorities, tending to the suppression of crimes, although still three out of every five offenders escaped punishment.

Concluding the review of this summary, it will be found that serious crimes held the proportion of twenty-six and a half per cent. in the general number of cases; thirty-two and two-thirds in that of individuals concerned; and in convictions twenty-six and one-third per cent.; the latter only equalling in proportion the amount of cases, and falling short by six per cent. of what it ought to have been with reference to the number of parties concerned. It may, however, be worth noticing, that though still considerably below what they ought to be with reference to the number of parties concerned, the pro-

portion with respect to the number of cases, although that had itself increased two and a half per cent., had in the last year of the four risen to three and a half per cent.; the cases in that year bearing the portion of twenty-eight and a half per cent. in cases, and thirty-two per cent. in the convictions.

The last point of review in which this summary is to be taken, will be the proportion of cases, &c. to each of the Magisterial Officers; these would average in the course of the year one thousand four hundred and sixteen to every Zillah of which the parties concerned would be three thousand two hundred and sixty-nine; somewhat above two to each case, this after making allowance, as before shewn, for the Sundays and Holidays, would give for each day's work nearly five cases, (4.90,) the parties concerned having been more than eleven (11.28) daily to be brought up, or enquired for: for these there will be at least five prosecutors, besides Police reports and sooruthals bearing on the cases, each prosecutor must have two witnesses, and it can hardly be expected but that each prisoner will have the same, besides making his defence, thus there will be every day forty-eight depositions to be heard, written down, and duly considered, on an average, by each of the Magisterial Authorities; and in addition to this, he has the executive Police duties of receiving Thannah and Chowkeedare reports, issuing orders for Police control, &c. &c. forming altogether a mass of labor sufficient to appal the most active-minded, and rendering it impossible that all these duties should be effectively, and usefully fulfilled; the effect of this may be seen in the want of efficient control these chapters display for the suppression of crime; and the advance that has occurred in its amount, when a reduction should rather have been looked for.

That a more just estimate may be formed of the state of crime and criminal proceedings in Bengal it is expedient to make a comparison with the condition of other countries. The first that occurs for this purpose is naturally England and Wales, and to effect the contrast, the more conclusively, the following estimate has been framed, shewing the state of crime in that country, at the same period as here taken. It is to be regretted that the returns do not distinguish, in the statement of persons charged with criminal actions, during this period, the nature of the crime of which they are accused, although the returns of convictions are very full on this head. The population is taken from the returns made in 1831 as stated in Porter's official returns

	Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the Population.	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square Mile.		Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders one in	Convicted one in
1823	....	....	....	12,263	199	7,989	116	8,204	976	1,460
1824	....	....	....	13,698	189	9,115	121	9,425	874	1,271
1825	....	....	....	14,437	208	9,484	272	9,964	829	1,202
1826	....	....	....	16,164	246	10,665	196	11,107	741	1,078
Total	....	....	....	56,562	842	37,253	705	38,700	...	...
Average	57,066	11,978,875	209.91	14,140	210	9,313	179	9,675	847	1,238

It is to be regretted that data are not to be found for other places, and countries, for more than one or two years of the above series; so that the comparison will be less complete than could be wished; it necessarily follows however that we must be contented with such details, and averages as can be procured, and which after all are sufficient for our general purpose; as the difference, between one year and another, is not very great in the places selected.

The next occurring is Ireland, but we can only procure the returns of 1826, as follows:

Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the Population.	
Square Miles.	Population.			Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders	Convict-
30,000	6,801,827	226.72	14,795	...	...	...	9,368	460	726

Viewing this large proportion of crime it is perhaps to be regretted that we have not the returns from Scotland also which we have reason to believe would prove much less.

For France also we have only data for the year 1826, but we know that in this country as well as in the United States of America, crime ran in a tolerably even ratio between one year and another. France shews therefore:—

Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the Population.	
Square Miles	Population.	Population per square mile.		Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences	Total.	Offenders one in	Convicted one in
*205,000	†29,236,000	143.10	166,728	846	3,461	5,096	9,403	175	3,108

The above is framed from the *Compte general de l'administration de la justice criminelle*, and may be considered tolerably correct, so far as it goes. It were desirable that this information could be obtained more fully, as regards other countries, but particulars are not to be ascertained, for where these afford accounts of the numbers charged, the extent of convictions are wanting, and so forth, rendering the whole imperfect and useless for the object of comparison. This part of the review must necessarily therefore be brought to a close, with a comparison of the few places given, and a short summary of remarks on the comparative condition of crime afforded, which will be best, and most comprehensively shewn in the following statement, at the period in question; at the same time it is much to be regretted, that, in the returns for Bengal, the convictions for crimes against the person, and against property are *not* separated, and hence the contrast can only be carried out between crimes generally, and offences.

Places.	Extent.			Persons Charged.	Convictions.			Proportion to the Population.				Proportion of convictions to charges.
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per Square Mile.		Crimes.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders charged one in	Convicted. For Crimes one in	Convicted. For Offences one in	Convicted. Total one in	
Bengal....	154,453	36,918,765	239.03	98,075	9,687	27,087	36,769	376	3,811	1,363	1,004	0.375
England & Wales	57,066	11,978,875	209.91	14,140	9,523	179	9,702	845	1,259	66,921	1,231	0.686
Ireland.....	30,000	6,801,827	226.72	14,795	..	..	9,368	460	..	..	726	0.640
France ...	2,05,000	29,236.000	143.10	166.728	4,307	5,096	9,403	175	6,788	5,757	3,108	0.056

* Murray's Encyclopædia of Geography † Porter's Tables 18[illegible]0

Although taken on authority which is generally considered good, the extent of square miles in France may be considered rather in excess, although in all other respects this statement many be looked on as correct. An examination of its details shews rather favorably for the Police of Bengal, notwithanding the large proportion of offenders apprehended, as compared with the population, being nearly 225 per cent. greater than in England and Wales, and 122 per cent. above that in Ireland, whilst with France the comparison appears as 49 per cent. on the other sides. This latter is so very disproportionate alike to the ratio of population, and to the subsequent convictions, that there is little reason to doubt that the report is incumbered with every petty appearance at the Police, even if only for examination of passport, or administration of oaths of form; and it can hardly therefore be assumed as any help to our object. In comparing Bengal also, with England and Wales, or even with Ireland consideration must be given to the greater degree of education known to exist in these two countries; and this is rendered the more striking by contrasting the one of these with the other, shewing so marked an evidence in favor of England and Wales, wherein education has, it is notorious, so greatly the superiority; this is the more worthy of remark as it goes far to prove the fallacy of the assertions made by the opponents of education among natives. It has to be borne in mind also, in considering the contrast shewn in this table, that personal liberty is so much more secure, and the chances of false, or extortionate arrests so vastly less in Great Britain, where malicious complaints are less frequent, and less liable to be carried out to the extent of an arrest, than in this country. Yet, considering all these collateral circumstances, we cannot look on the appearance of this part of the police operations in Bengal, as exhibiting so unfavorable an aspect as we have been generally led to expect; at the same time it must be admitted that it is on such comparisons alone, that any judgment can be formed of the good or ill condition of the police of any country, and the value of its operations.

In comparing convictions of those who are arrested for crimes in Bengal, the advantage is evidently apparent over those in England and Wales, at the same time, however, the proportion proved in the courts in the latter exceeding those of the former, viz. about thirty-three per cent, we may fairly assume that the executive duties of the police are better and more effectually performed, since it is evident that fewer false, or doubtful seizures must occur, and the evidence has been more carefully selected, and more surely obtained. We have

however generally, been led to suppose that the proportion of crime was greatest here; but this would not appear by these tables to be the case, notwithstanding the greater amount of the population, being about fifteen per cent., without taking into account the large tracts of jungle, and were it not that in India conviction is more difficult of attainment, from the corruption of the Courts, and the chances of escape thereby being increased, it would seem that Bengal was less prolific of crime than Great Britain. In France it would appear to be yet more reduced, and we have good reason to believe this to be the case, as in addition to the known superiority of the police, in activity the new districts are less rife in crime than either our own, or this country, and their inhabitants generally, are a simple and inoffensive race.

It is unnecessary to refer more at length in regard to offences, except to remark the very small proportion they bear in England and Wales to the extent and density of population, it is preferred therefore to pass on to the general state of convictions, of all sorts, for both crimes, and offences. In ratio of these proportionate convictions, Bengal stands third in the countries selected. France being the first, and shewing one conviction to 3,108 inhabitants, and Ireland resting the lowest in morality, or one in 725—Bengal being, as shewn, as one in 1004, a ratio that, under all circumstances, may be considered tolerably favorable. The proportion of convictions to the charges made, or offenders, supports what has been already remarked respecting the greater activity in the executive apartments of the police, and the certainty of evidence; —it is remarkable that, generally speaking, less than half the offenders are convicted, notwithstanding an alleged exertion in the part of the police: in Bengal the convictions are little more than one-third;—in England and Wales and in Ireland they stand as two-thirds; but in France they do not amount to even a twentieth.

Altogether therefore we may consider that this review gives a rather favorable comparative view of the state of Bengal, more so than, it is believed, was generally supposed; but it is often found that a resort to figures exhibits a very different view of affairs to that which a mere mental estimate could have formed and we shall refer to the sequence of this portion of the observations on the Criminal Statistics to confirm this assertion; to which we at once turn in continuation of our object.

CHAPTER VII.

Analysis of Crime, and Criminals from 1833 *to* 1836 *with their relative proportions to population &c. in* ***Patna, Behar, Sarun, Shahabad, Poorneah, Bhagulpore, Monghyr, Tirhoot, Dinajpore, Malda, Rajshuhaee and Pubna, Bugoorah, Moorshedabad, and Beerbhoom.***

In pursuing enquiry through this second period after an interval of ten years, the change in the form of reports precludes the entering into that *minutiæ* of detail with which this review has heretofore been followed out, and, as a necessary consequence, limits considerably the possibility of comparison, and of detailed exhibition of facts, which however it is hoped may be resumed in respect to the review of more recent years. Above all it is to be regretted that crimes against the person, and against property are not kept separate, as regards the parties concerned; nor are they defined as occurring in each district, or division, in the information concerning which, the only perfect detail attainable relates to the number of persons concerned and convicted, the separate information only being preserved with reference to the whole Presidency. The statements however, as far as practicable, in this respect, are carried out on the same plan as adopted in the foregoing chapters and appear as follows :

Comparative amount of Crime, &c. in the 1st Division of Bengal.

Year	District	Extent. Square miles.	Population	Population per square mile.	Crimes and Offences, &c. Parties concerned.	Convicted.	Proportion of offenders to population, being *one* in
1833	Patna ...	1,960	845,790	432.03	3,491	2,188	242
	Behar ...	2,120	807,924	381.09	2,126	897	380
	Sarun & Champarun .	5,035	1,432,432	284.49	744	394	1,925
	Shahabad ...	3,956	961,924	243.15	1,582	624	608
	Poorneah ...	7,460	1,602,932	214.85	1,881	710	846
	Bhagulpore ...	9,600	2,000,000	208.33	1,169	455	1,711
	Monghyr ...	4,166	866,520	207.99	1,015	545	853
	Tirhoot ...	7,732	1,510,427	195.34	2,899	1,379	521
	Dinajpore ...	4,136	2,298,200	554.45	1,875	716	1,215
	Malda ...	3,500	431,715	123.35	1,028	565	420
	Rungpore ...	6,570	1,214,275	184.82	3,909	1,500	311
	Rajshuhaee & Pubna.	7,588	2,586,251	209.04	5,632	2,241	459
	Bugoorah ...	3,968	321,000	80.39	1,480	759	217
	Moorshedabad ...	1,870	969,447	518.42	2,661	613	364
	Beerbhoom ...	3,850	1,580,665	410.56	2,108	994	750
		73,511	19,424,502	250.58	33,600	14,680	578
1834	Patna ...			......	2,618	1,513	323
	Behar ...			......	2,480	1,114	326
	Sarun, and Champarun		......	......	726	316	1,973
	Shahabad ...		......	......	1,904	933	505
	Poorneah ...		......	......	2,081	987	770
	Bhagulpore ...		......	......	1,100	435	1,818
	Monghyr ...		......	......	1,155	636	750
	Tirhoot ...		......	......	2,561	1,072	590
	Dinajpore ... / Malda ...		......	......	3,201	1,232	853
	Rungpore and Bugoorah		......	......	5,053	2,389	304
	Rajshuhaee and Pubna		......	......	5,525	2,253	468
	Moorshedabad ...		......	......	3,502	1,310	276
	Beerbhoom ...		......	......	1,555	890	1,016
					33,461	15,080	581

		Extent.			Crimes and Offences, &c.		
		Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Parties concerned.	Convicted.	Proportion of offenders to population, being *one* in.
	Patna ...	......	....	......	2,572	1,318	329
	Behar ...	......	....	......	1,777	784	455
	Sarun, & Champarun.	......	....	......	1,791	930	799
	Shahabad ...	......	....	......	1,660	816	579
	Poorneah ...	......	....	......	1,917	878	823
	Bhagulpore ...	......	....	......	1,467	807	1,362
	Monghyr ...	......	....	......	1,349	785	642
1835	Tirhoot ...	......	....	......	2,144	889	704
	Dinajpore ...	......	....	......	1,817	662	1,265
	Malda ...	......	....	......	982	387	110
	Rungpore ...	......	....	......	2,740	1,411	143
	Rajshuhaee & Pubna	......	....	......	3,969	1,722	652
	Bugoorah ...	......	....	......	691	434	165
	Moorshedabad ...	......	....	......	2,363	1,103	110
	Beerbhoom ..	......	....	......	1,631	1,050	973
					28,896	11,006	672
	Patna ...		......	......	2,162	973	344
	Behar ...		......	......	1,681	631	181
	Sarun & Champarun .		......	......	2,773	1,156	517
	Shahabad ...		......	......	1,795	696	536
	Poorneah ...		......	......	1,689	901	949
	Bhagulpore ...		......	......	1,007	864	1,986
	Monghyr ...		......	......	*1,173	655	738
1836	Tirhoot ...		......	......	2,137	1,105	707
	Dinajpore ...		......	......	2,153	1,260	1,067
	Malda ...		......	......	1,265	647	341
	Rungpore ...		......	......	2,815	1,806	132
	Rajshuhaee & Pubna .		......	......	3,234	1,473	799
	Bugoorah ...		......	......	680	421	472
	Moorshedabad ...		.....	....	2,150	666	450
	Beerbhoom ...		......	....	2,526	1,565	625
			......	....			
			......	....	29,540	14,819	658

* The returns for this year having been lost, an average of the three preceding is taken to complete the statement

	Extent.			Crimes and Offences, &c.		
	Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Parties Concerned.	Convicted	Proportion of offenders to population, being *one in*
Patna ...	1,960	845,799	432.03	2,537	1,505	333
Behar ...	2,120	807,924	381.09	2,016	856	401
Sarun, and Champarun ...	5,035	1,432,432	284.49	1,508	699	950
Shahabad ...	3,956	961,924	243.15	1,735	767	554
Poorneah ...	7,460	1,602,932	214.85	1,899	869	844
Bhagulpore ...	9,600	2,000,000	208.33	1,186	640	1,686
Monghyr ...	4,166	866,520	207.99	1,173	655	739
Tirhoot ...	7,772	1,510,427	195.34	2,435	1,111	620
Dinajpore ...	4,136	2,293,200	554.45	3,280	1,367	831
Malda ...	3,500	431,715	123.35			
Rungpore ...	6,570	1,214,275	184.82	2,998	1,478	405
Rajshuhace, and Pubna ...	7,588	2,586,251	209.04	4,590	1,922	563
Bugoorah ...	3,968	321,000	80.39	1,344	702	239
Moorshedabad ...	1,870	969,447	518.42	2,669	928	363
Beerbhoom ...	3,850	1,580,665	410.56	1,955	1,125	809
	73,511	19,424,502	250.58	31,474	14,646	617

Commencing a more close review of the state of crime in the several districts of this division with:

PATNA.—It is evident that, in point of extent of crime, this district continued still the worst of the whole division, although very greatly improved in comparison with the period before reviewed, from 1823 to 1826. The average of the four years exhibiting one offender in three hundred and thirty-three, but we do not observe such extent of improvement during the years now under notice, although still continuing progressive in its course, commencing with one in two hundred and forty-three in 1833, and terminating with one in three hundred and forty-four in 1836, thus in all respects realizing the promise, which was before alluded to, "of a better state of things in after years," the decrease between the first and last years being equal to twenty-nine per cent. On the other hand it is observable that, whilst the number of offenders were thus declining, the amount of convictions, declined in a disproportionate degree, giving the appearance of decreasing magisterial governance; having been in 1833, two thousand, one hundred, and eighty-eight out of three thousand, four

hundred, and ninety-one, or equal to sixty-two and a half per cent.; and in 1836, nine hundred and seventy-three out of two thousand, four hundred and sixty-two, or only thirty-nine and a half per cent.; the average of convictions during the whole four years, being fifty-nine per cent.; thus exhibiting an improvement in the proportion as compared with the ten years previous equalling fourteen and three quarters per cent. In this respect however, notwithstanding the lessened ratio, as regards convictions, in its proportion to offenders; it will be observed, that, as compared with the general rate of this division, Patna bears a favorable character, these exhibiting forty-six and a half per cent.

The only year of which any record exists distinguishing the various descriptions of crime, is the year 1836, which, in comparison with the average of the period from 1823 to 1826, shews the following:

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	347	398
Concerned	655	433
Convicted, &c.	295	167
Offences.		
Cases	1,470	995
Concerned	2,556	2,029
Convicted, &c.	1,127	815

exhibiting nearly a fixed ratio of crime during the two periods. Heinous cases however having increased some thirteen per cent., at the same time that the number of those concerned had encreased to the extent of nearly thirty-four per cent. convictions being forty-three per cent. less, and being only 0,42 to each case against. 85 at the former period. Offences however had decreased in the number of cases thirty-two per cent., in those concerned twenty-one per cent., and in convictions twenty-one per cent. being on the cases as 0.81 to the number of cases against 0.76, shewing an improvement in this class, notwithstanding the very serious deterioration in the more serious class.

Behar.—As before, although adjoining the last named district, does not exhibit so vast an accession of crime which is here at least twenty-seven per cent. less. The average proportion of offenders to the inhabitants, having been one in four hundred and fifty-five, and like its neighbour it has been in progressive

improvement, commencing with one in three hundred and eighty-four in 1833, and rising to one in four hundred and seventy-four in 1836.

But it is very much to be regretted that the returns do not afford any information as to classification of those concerned in crimes, and in mere offences; as there was so great occasion before to notice the predominance of crimes of a heinous nature, and the generally turbulent character of the people is calculated so much to keep this up, we can therefore only exhibit any comparison in this respect for the single year 1836, which against the average of from 1823 to 1826 shews as follows:

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	1,158	255
Concerned	3,024	1,024
Convicted, &c.	639	502
Offences.		
Cases	1,169	209
Concerned	2,166	657
Convicted, &c.	959	183

Which would shew a very wonderful decrease in crimes of every description and those of a heinous nature are very much less in number than in any year of the former period: in making a comparison with which it is hardly necessary to point out the extent of improvement, so obvious is it. First, as regards the general ratio, being one criminal in two hundred and fifty-eight inhabitants in former years, and one in four hundred and twenty-four in 1836. But the greatest decrease is apparent in crimes of a heinous kind; the reduction being, in number of cases, equal to eighty-one per cent. in number of offenders, to sixty-six per cent. and in convictions to above twenty-one per cent. whilst the ratio of these last to the persons concerned amounted to some fifty-one per cent. against the former one of twenty-one per cent. Offences at the same time decreasing in number of cases, eighty-two per cent.; in those concerned seventy-four per cent., and in convictions eighty-one per cent. whilst the convictions to offenders were twenty-eight per cent., against forty-four per cent.

Sarun and Champarun—exhibit a very great improvement in the general condition of crimes of all sorts, having been in the former period one in four

hundred and twenty of the inhabitants, whereas in the second period of four years it had risen to one in nine hundred and ninety, although it must be admitted that during the time recorded a serious decline has taken place, having run down from one in one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five in 1833, to one in five hundred and thirty five in 1836. This last year being the only one as before mentioned that affords a comparison of general facts as follows :--

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases...........................	833	373
Concerned......................	1,752	1,378
Convicted, &c..................	635	715
Offences.		
Cases...........................	804	748
Concerned......................	1,705	1,395
Convicted, &c..................	800	769

shewing a very fair decrease in the extent of crime generally, but especially as regards those of a heinous nature, these being here much less than in any year of the former period, those of a heinous nature being here no less than fifty-five per cent. below the average of the former period; whilst the offenders were twenty-one per cent. less, and convictions thirteen to fourteen per cent. more, the ratio of those to each case having been 1.87 against 0.73 during the before mentioned period, being a ratio of fifty-two per cent. of those concerned. Offences exhibit a decrease in the amount equal to seven per cent., no great things certainly, and exhibiting but little to guide the reader to any conclusion, in the number of those concerned a slight improvement is apparent to the extent of eighteen per cent.; but in convictions there had been also a falling off equal to four per cent., these standing however at 1.02 to each case against about the same between 1823 and 1826, the convictions being a proportion to the offenders equal to fifty-five per cent.

Reviewing the state of crime, as shewn by the statement that opens this chapter, as regards cases of every description, it is impossible not to be surprised at the great increase of crime appearing between 1833 and 1836 amounting in number of those concerned to two hundred and seventy-four per cent. being only seven hundred and forty-four in the first, and two thousand

seven hundred and seventy-three in the last. And although convictions were numerically increased to an extent equal to one hundred and ninety-three per cent. the proportions are not improved, having been three hundred and ninety-four in 1833, and one thousand one hundred and fifty-six in 1836, the former being fifty-three per cent. of those concerned, and the latter only about forty-two per cent. Comparing the average of these four years, with those of the former period taken, it will be found that the parties concerned in the latter were three thousand four hundred and fifty-seven, and in the former one thousand five hundred and eight, being a reduction equal to nearly fifty-seven per cent.; whilst convictions, being in the latter period one thousand four hundred and thirty-five, had sunk in the former to six hundred and ninety-nine, or less by fifty-one per cent.; and shewing between 1823 and 1826 some forty-two per cent., between 1832 and 1836 forty-six, an evident improvement in judicial government, and at the same time that, notwithstanding the falling off in the last two years, a beneficial extension in magisterial rule was so very apparent. Altogether we may look on this district as one of the best in the division.

SHAHABAD.—Also shews signs of improvement in comparison of the two periods under review, averaging one in five hundred and fifty-four of the inhabitants, against one in two hundred and twenty-one between 1823 and 1826, shewing no marked difference in the average of the four years, depreciating however twelve per cent. between the first and last years of the period, and exhibiting one in six hundred and seven in 1833, and one in five hundred and thirty-five in 1836.

In this last year the following appears as the statement of cases, &c.

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1825.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	567	275
Concerned	1,715	773
Convicted	750	569
Offences.		
Cases	1,189	501
Concerned	2,405	1,062
Convicted	1,007	610

Exhibiting a decided improvement both as respects extent of crime and judicial power, nearly equal in heinous as in petty cases; reduction in the former having

been fifty-one and a half per cent., whilst in the latter it reached nearly fifty-eight per cent. The number of those concerned in heinous matters having been less by fifty-five per cent., and in minor offences by nearly fifty-six per cent., and although the number of convictions had been reduced, the proportion appears greater of those receiving the due punishment of their crimes; being for the more serious seventy-four per cent. against forty-four in the former period, and in minor offences forty-six per cent. against forty-one, or equal to 2.07 to each of the former, and 2.12 to each of the latter cases.

Reviewing all descriptions of cases it is observable throughout the period between 1833 and 1836, there has been a depreciation in the state of crime, judging by the number of offenders, ranging from one thousand five hundred and eighty-two in the first year, to one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five in the last of the series, and averaging throughout at one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five, against the four thousand one hundred and twenty of the former average; a degree of improvement that could hardly have been expected in so short a time as ten years, the decrease equalling nearly fifty-eight per cent. Convictions however do not, throughout the range, shew quite so favorably, having, from nine hundred and thirty-three in 1834, fallen to six hundred and ninety-six, and averaging in the four years seven hundred and sixty-seven or some forty-four per cent. of the parties concerned, against forty-three per cent. during the former period, and two per cent. below the general average of the district.

POORNEAH.—Similarly with most districts in this division exhibits signs of improvement, in comparison with the previous period, having only one offender in eight hundred and forty-five inhabitants, against one in two hundred and twenty-five as the average between 1823 and 1826, shewing a progressive improvement between 1833 and 1836 equal to about sixteen per cent. say from one in seven hundred and ninety-nine in the first to one in nine hundred and forty-nine in the last year.

In 1836 the following is the comparative statement:—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	529	472
Concerned	1,426	559
Convicted	275	356

Offences.	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Cases...........................	3,371	500
Concerned.......................	4,625	1,130
Convicted.......................	2,122	403

In this we find a continued favorable aspect in the state of the police: though not to so great an extent as the other districts, except perhaps in regard to the convictions for petty offences; the reduction in heinous cases having been eleven per cent., and in petty offences the gratifying falling off of eighty-five per cent. The number of those concerned in the higher class of crimes having been less by nearly sixty-one per cent.; and in lesser offences a reduction of seventy-five and a half per cent. The average of convictions had most extraordinarily increased, having only amounted in the former period to some nineteen per cent. whereas in 1835 it reached sixty-three per cent. of those concerned, too decided an improvement in the judicial department not to deserve notice. Whilst thirty-five per cent. was the proportion of conviction for offences against forty-six as the average of the four years from 1823 to 1826. Being only 0.75 each of the former and 0.80 of the latter.

Recurring to the general view of cases of all kinds, between the years 1833 and 1836, during the first three years, the number of offenders appears on the rise, but during the last year it sunk some fourteen and a quarter per cent. below the average of the first three years, and amounted to only one thousand six hundred and eighty-nine; the average throughout the four years being one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, against six thousand and fifty-one in the former period from 1823 to 1826, a very vast improvement, almost incredible indeed in its extent, being upwards of sixty-eight per cent.: convictions too, exhibit a favorable increase rising from seven hundred and ten in 1833 to nine hundred and one in 1836, the average of the four years being eight hundred and sixty-nine; or some forty-six per cent. of the offenders concerned, against nearly forty per cent. ten years previously; but still exhibiting this district inferior in point of judicial Government, as it is two per cent. below the average of the division in which it is situate, which was not the case in the four years from 1823 to 1826.

Bhagulpore.—As before shewn, is not abundant in population, but had increased in proportion since the last reports, and had alike improved in the

moral condition of the district; the proportion of offenders to the inhabitants having been in the present four years an average of one in one thousand six hundred and eighty six against, in the previous period of review, one in six hundred and forty-two: commencing with one in one thousand seven hundred and eleven in 1833 and ending in 1836 one thousand nine hundred and eighty-six.

Our limited opportunities of comparison afford only the following:—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	224	184
Concerned	461	348
Convicted	167	168
Offences.		
Cases	484	362
Concerned	1,274	659
Convicted	545	162

This exhibits certainly an evident decrease of crime, although unfortunately it shews also something very like judicial laxity, and want of executive police, for out of three hundred and forty-eight criminals only one hundred and sixty-eight were convicted, say some forty-nine per cent., whilst in offences the ratio was at twenty-four per cent.

The state of crime generally however shews improvement from one offender in one thousand seven hundred and eleven inhabitants in 1833, to one in one thousand nine hundred and eighty-six in 1836. A decided decrease is however apparent in the state of cases of both kinds, being a reduction of nearly eighteen per cent. in heinous cases, and about twenty-five per cent. in offences; referring however only to the one year of 1836, the average being in the district a decrease of criminality equal to some sixty-two per cent. or one in six hundred and forty-two in the former period and one in one thousand six hundred and eighty-six in the latter period, or from 1833 to 1836. But the average decrease of parties concerned in crimes and offences is from one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five to one thousand one hundred and eighty-six, or a reduction equal to thirty-one per cent. And in convictions we find that the average was in the latter period six hundred and forty and in the former seven hundred, the ratio of the same being nearly fifty-five per cent. against thirty-four per cent.

MONGHYR—too, exhibits improvement, shewing only one offender in seven hundred and thirty-nine inhabitants, against one in six hundred and eighty-seven between 1823 and 1826; but still losing ground in the course of the present period, being one in eight hundred and fifty-three in 1833, and one in only seven hundred and thirty-eight in 1836.

As before we must take comparison in point of particulars, and carry out our review the best way we can, especially as we have no particulars for this quarter of any portion of the period under review, the remarks therefore can only be general. The first three years are also the only ones for which any returns appear, and these shew an increase of offenders between 1833 and 1835 equal to nearly thirty-three per cent.; these amounting, in the former year, to one thousand and fifteen, and in the latter to one thousand three hundred and forty-nine; at same time it must be confessed that convictions also increased in a more than adequate ratio, viz. from five hundred and forty-five to seven hundred and eighty-five, being equal to forty-four per cent.; the average of this latter being during the period, above fifty-five per cent. of the offenders, against fifty-nine per cent. in the four years between 1823 and 1826, so that in judicial government the district must be considered to have fallen off.

TIRHOOT—shews a considerable improvement in the proportionate extent of crime, which in the previous ten years was one in two hundred and twenty-seven, and in the present only one in six hundred and twenty of the inhabitants, which, considering what we observed before, was hardly to be expected, seeing that its condition in respect to drunkenness had not much improved, even to this day. The following returns shew the state of crime so far as we are in possession of it:—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	1,411	617
Concerned	2,841	1,629
Convicted	435	276
Offences.		
Cases	2,562	1,090
Concerned	4,647	1,520
Convicted	1,972	758

This exhibits a very considerable decrease in crime; both in cases, and

offenders especially in those of a heinous nature, the number of cases in which are lessened by fifty-six per cent., and in parties concerned forty-two per cent.; the convictions being 0.44 in each case against 0.30 in the period before noticed.

Offences under the same comparative view would exhibit a decrease in cases of fifty-seven per cent., and in offenders of nearly sixty per cent. convictions being to each case 0.69 against 0.77 between 1823 and 1826, a proportion that bears to the offenders nearly fifty per cent.

Regarding the general state of crime we find a decrease in the average number of offenders between 1833 to 1836 and 1823 to 1826 of full sixty-four per cent. and in convictions of fifty-four per cent., but those latter bore the proportion of nearly forty-five per cent. of those concerned, or nearly one-half, against not more than thirty-five per cent., between 1823 and 1826; so decided an improvement shews a considerable attention must have been paid to the judicial management of the district, with increased activity on the part of the authorities.

DINAJPORE and MALDA—form together, one of those districts wherein it is well known offenders are less prone to commit crime, than to remain in concealment, under appearance of respectable ryots; an examination of the district therefore affords interest, and in the present review shews a very vast improvement, as regards the general state of crime, having been in the previous period of ten years, as one offender in three hundred and twenty-six of the inhabitants, whereas the four years now shown exhibit only one in eight hundred and thirty-one in this, and the neighbouring district of Malda, which the want of separate reports throughout the time from 1833 to 1836, obliges to be taken together, this latter in the years of average from 1823 to 1826 amounted to one in three hundred and ninety-six.

The year 1836 is as before, the only one admitting of comparison in the various classes of crime, shewing as follows:—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	859	1,133
Concerned	1,916	3,128
Convicted	520	541
Offences.		
Cases	1,073	1,099
Concerned	3,128	2,285
Convicted	1,188	949

This will shew, however, a rather disadvantageous state of affairs as regards this particular year, especially as to the general averages of the four years; but the period elapsed, and the general deficiency of definite reports, prohibits any certain enquiry into the causes of such a serious falling off, which would either imply an increased neglect in judicial government, or a greater boldness on the part of the numerous bad characters in the quarter, which we may fairly infer to have its origin in executive laxity. There is apparent an increase of two hundred and seventy-four, or twenty-four per cent. in the number of cases of heinous nature, and in the parties to them of nearly thirty-nine per cent.; the convictions being nearly the same in number, but in proportion only 0.47 in each case against 0.60 in the former period, in neither instances one to each.

Offences under the like comparative review exhibiting a nearly parallel number of cases, and in offenders a decrease nearly thirty-seven per cent.; convictions standing at 0.86 to each case against 1.10 in the former period or equal to forty-two per cent. of the parties concerned.

To turn however, to the general average of the four years under examination, in all descriptions of offenders, we find a decrease of those concerned in criminal transactions between 1823 to 1826, and 1833 to 1836 equal to thirty-five per cent.; but in convictions of only nine and a half per cent.: bearing a proportion of forty-one per cent. of the parties concerned, against twenty-nine per cent. in the former years. So that with the exception, as before shewn, to the last year of the series, an evident improvement had been here shewn in the judicial management; and from this cause we are led to suppose the difference must have been occasioned by some very extraordinary circumstance not explained.

Rungpore—has not generally been considered other then a medium district in point of crime; it will be found that, excluding the year 1834, in which the reports of this district are mixed up with those of Bugoorah, there has been a moderate degree of depreciation in the proportion of crime to the inhabitants, ranging from one offender in three hundred and eleven inhabitants in 1833, to one in four hundred and thirty-two in 1836; but, in observing the two periods presented, it forms subject for regret, that so great a falling off should be apparent as we here discover, the average between 1833 and 1836 having been one in four hundred and five of the inhabitants, against one in nine hundred and ninety-one in the former period of enquiry.

As regards the year 1836 the following shews the state of crime :—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases......................	633	526
Concerned..................	1,548	911
Convicted..................	193	324
Offences.		
Cases......................	538	834
Concerned..................	1,841	1,904
Convicted..................	771	648

In regard to heinous crimes the comparison of this statement would shew rather an improvement in the district, though far otherwise in respect to those of lesser moment. The decrease in serious cases appears equal to nearly seventeen per cent., but in the amount of those concerned fell off to no less than forty one per cent.; leaving to each case 2.45 as the perpetrators in the former period, and in this latter year only 1.73; and, it must be confessed that so great a falling off in the number of parties concerned in criminal actions is deserving of remark, especially accompanied, as this so evidently is, by improved judicial government, convictions being in point of number sixty-eight per cent more, with the number of cases, as had been shewn so much less, and in point of proportion 0.62 to each case against 0.30 in the period between 1823 and 1826, an increase of punishment equalling not less than one hundred and six per cent.

Petty offences however offer a far different state in review for the increase in this department in number of cases is not less than fifty-five per cent. although here too the decreased proportion to the several cases is apparent, the parties to each being 2.28 against 3.42 in the former period; the total increase being numerically however only three and a half per cent.; convictions, in point of number, being about sixteen per cent. less, and to each case 0.77 against 1.43. This may however be accounted for, it being self-evident that an improved activity had taken place in criminal affairs generally, and in the investigation of cases, evident in the increased proportion of criminal convictions, and this active spirit brought to bear on petty offences, would, there is no doubt, find a greater number, and at the same time by a more searching investigation than

had been customary, prove the fallacy of the changes, and dismiss the complaint, such cases being but too commonly brought forward in malice, or petty quarrels between neighbours.

To return to the general range of cases of all descriptions, as shewn in the statements, it will be found that during the period of the three years in question, of which there are separate reports, viz. 1833, 1835 and 1836, the parties concerned appear to have run from three thousand nine hundred and nine in the first year to two thousand eight hundred and fifteen in the last, a reduction of nearly twenty-eight per cent. the average being two thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight against three thousand three hundred and eighty-nine in the former period of review: whilst the convictions ranged, during the above three years, from fifteen hundred to eighteen hundred and six, a numerical progression of twenty and one third per cent., shewing, on the average, one thousand four hundred and seventy-eight, against nine hundred and sixty-four, or the vast increase in number of fifty-three per cent. The general ratio of convictions to those concerned being forty-nine and a quarter per cent., or not quite half of the offenders, against twenty-eight per cent., or not one-third in the former period; thus fully bearing out in the general results, the remarks that have been made with respect to the particular year 1836, although it makes it to be the more regretted that we have not equally detailed reports of all the years under review.

Rajshuhaee and Pubna.—Are something below the average standard of the Division, in point of crime; and it may be observed that during the four years included in these observations the proportion of parties concerned in crime, &c. ranged from one in four hundred and fifty-nine, to one in seven hundred and ninety-nine, too marked an improvement not to deserve notice, especially as it appears in the last two years to have been progressive, 1835 shewing one in six hundred and fifty-two, the whole difference being equal to seventy-four per cent: yet even this improved state of things does not reach the condition in which the district was during the former period of review, and evidently exhibits a great laxity somewhere, in the state of the district; for even with this improvement during the latter two years of the time selected for remark, we find our comparison with the previously noted four years a falling off, equal to forty-three per cent. averaging one in five hundred and sixty-three in the present time, against one in nine hundred and ninety-one between 1823 and 1826.

The state of crime in 1836 appears as follows :—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases........................	109	278
Concerned......................	931	734
Convicted......................	422	294
Offences.		
Cases........................	529	736
Concerned......................	1,431	2,490
Convicted......................	45[illegible]	1,209

In these districts, like the last, there is a serious receding in point of offences but it extends equally to crimes, although there appears no means from public documents of accounting for the evil, unless it may have arisen from the frequent change of public officers, that is known to have taken place between the last period of review and the present. The increase in serious cases amounted between the two times of review to no less than one hundred and fifty-four per cent. !--but, at the same time, it is somewhat remarkable that the number of parties concerned in heinous offences were twenty-one per cent. less, shewing to each case 8.54 in the former period as the parties to each crime, and in 1836 only 2.64 a singular state of things considering the great increase in amount of crimes, and decrease in amount of convictions, and leads almost naturally to the question whether laxity on part of the police has not led to greater boldness in the perpetrators of crime. Convictions had fallen off in the numerical ratio of thirty per cent., the proportion to each case being 1.06, against 3.87 between 1823 and 1826, a proportion fair enough, in comparison with most other districts, but a serious falling off as compared with itself ten years previously; and being of the parties concerned forty per cent. against nearly forty-six per cent.

Petty offences also exhibit a vast increase particularly in the number of the parties concerned; the number of cases having advanced thirty-nine per cent. the proportion of persons concerned being to each 3.38 against 2.70 in the former four years: the numerical increase being in the whole seventy-four per cent. Convictions appearing in number to the extraordinary extent of one hundred and sixty-four per cent. more, and standing to each case 1.64 against 0.86, A sufficient increase of business to overwhelm any magistrate, whatever may be the source from whence it springs.

The general range of cases next calls for attention, and this shews that, throughout the four years under consideration, the parties concerned had ranged from five thousand six hundred and thirty-two in 1833, to three thousand two hundred and thirty-four in 1836, a decrease equal to forty-two and a half per cent. and shewing the first two years of the series as the chief period of crime, the average being four thousand five hundred and ninety, against two thousand three hundred sixty-two in the former time of review, an increase equal to ninety-four per cent. The convictions ranging from two thousand two hundred and forty-one in 1833, to one thousand four hundred and seventy-three in 1836, being a falling of thirty-four per cent.; the average being one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two, against eight hundred and seventy-nine in the former four years. The convictions standing in the general ratio to those concerned of nearly forty-two per cent. or much less than half, against thirty-seven and a quarter per cent. a little more than one-third between 1823 and 1826. Shewing altogether a very bad state of things, and one that called for, as it is believed to have met, the serious attention of Government.

Bugoorah.—This district affords only three years for review, 1834 being mixed up with that of Rungpore, but in point of extent of crime it would appear to have been the worst in the Division, ranging during the four years, from one offender in two hundred and seventeen of the inhabitants, to one in four hundred and seventy-two, an improvement equal to fifty-four per cent. markedly occurring in the last two years of the series, the whole averaging at one in two hundred and thirty-nine, an alarming depreciation however, from what it was in the previous portion of our review, when the average of four years was one in six hundred and twenty-three.

In 1836 we find the following will be the comparative view of crime afforded:—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	74	257
Concerned	389	336
Convicted	91	84

Offences.	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Cases........................	211	211
Concerned....................	625	423
Convicted....................	149	182

Here again we find anything but an improvement in the extent of crime, especially in those of a heinous character, the increase in cases of that description having been no less than two hundred and forty-seven per cent.! although the number of persons concerned in such crimes were less by fourteen per cent. being to every case 1.30 against 5.05 as the average of the former period. Convictions too, lead to the supposition of some laxity on the part of the police, as they had numerically fallen off to the extent of nearly eight per cent., the ratio to each case being 0.33 only against 1.18 in the former period, a decrease for which it is very difficult to account.

Petty offences assumed a much more favorable appearance, the number of cases having been exactly the same in the two periods, with a decrease in the parties concerned equal to thirty-two per cent. the parties to each case being therefore two against 2.96 in the former period; convictions on the smaller number of offenders having increased twenty-two per cent. and bearing to each case 0.86 against 0.70 in the former period.

Observing the general range of cases it will be found that the parties concerned have ranged from one thousand four hundred and eighty in 1833 down to only six hundred and eighty in 1836, a degree of improvement almost unprecedented, and amounting to fifty-four per cent., and particularly remarkable in the last two years of the series, the average being one thousand three hundred and forty-four, against one thousand and fourteen, or an increase of offenders equal to thirty-two per cent. Convictions during the period ranging from seven hundred and fifty-nine to four hundred and twenty-one, the average appearing seven hundred and two against two hundred and forty, or an increase of seventy-five per cent. and being in proportion to the offenders fifty-two per cent., or rather more than one-half, against twenty-three and a half per cent., or not a fourth; an improvement most decided, at least in this branch, but possibly arising from neglect of such cases rather than from industry of the police, a

conclusion that may be fairly inferred, when we see such a bad state of things in the more serious department.

Moorshedabad.—The range of crime in this important district shews this to have been one of the worst, in respect to the number of criminals that bear in proportion to the population, but considering the extent of the city of Moorshedabad itself, besides the many large bazars, all enjoying a very extensive trade, it is natural to expect that crimes will be numerous as it is well known that their proportion increases in the same ratio that inhabitants are brought closer together, and business becomes more extensive, placing temptation more frequently in the way of the evil disposed, and affording greater opportunities to the vicious. The proportion of offenders appears to have been however improving, having run from one in three hundred and sixty-four in 1833, to one in four hundred and fifty in 1836, being at least twenty-three per cent., and leaving the average at one in three hundred and sixty-three. This however is more by thirteen per cent. than in the previous period referred to in these calculations, when the average appears as one in four hundred and nineteen.

The following is the rate of crime in 1836 as compared with the previous period:—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	177	174
Concerned	666	1,115
Convicted	220	670
Offences.		
Cases	638	455
Concerned	1,157	1,035
Convicted	438	633

In this comparison we have an evident improvement in the ratio of convictions, but have little else to congratulate the district upon: the reduction in number of cases of a heinous description, having been only three; whilst the parties concerned have risen from six hundred and sixty-six, to one thousand one hundred and fifteen, or not less than sixty-seven per cent., being to every case 6.41 against 3.75 in the average of comparison. Convictions afford a better review by an increase equal to the vast proportion in number of two hundred

and four per cent.; the extent to each case shewing 3.71 against 1.24 or nearly the same advance in ratio to each case.

Cases of less moment had certainly lessened in number by nearly twenty-nine per cent., but the comparison of the parties concerned is far less favorable amounting to only ten and a half per cent. the parties to each being 2.27 against 1.81; whilst convictions had in number advanced nearly forty-five per cent. being to each case 1,39 against 0.68.

Turning now to a general review of offenders during the two periods it will be found that the range, in amount of offenders, was from two thousand six hundred and sixty-one in 1833, to two thousand one hundred and fifty in 1836, a degree of improvement equal to nineteen per cent.: the more deserving of notice, because, from some cause unrecorded, these had risen in 1834 to three thousand five hundred and two, from which it had to be reduced down to the more moderate condition of the last year, and which raised the average of the four years to two thousand six hundred and sixty-nine, a number far in advance of the former period of review, when the number of offenders was only one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, the increase being equal to forty-six per cent. Convictions during the period do not shew very favourably as to numbers: those in 1833 being six hundred and thirteen, those in 1836, six hundred and sixty-six; the difference only seven per cent., the intermediate years especially 1834, had, it is true, exhibited a much larger number, but the offenders had equally increased, the average was however by that means made numerically to shew a considerable advance over the former period of notice, being nine hundred and twenty-eight, against six hundred and fifty-eight, or in favor of these four years forty-one per cent., the proportion to the offenders being nearly thirty-five per cent., against thirty-six and a half per cent. in the previous period of review, somewhat more than one third. On the whole therefore in point of criminal condition this district has rather retrograded than otherwise.

Beerbhoom.—In the range of crime we find this district entitled to a high position, the proportion of offenders having been in 1833, one in seven hundred and fifty inhabitants, and although sinking in 1836, to one in six hundred and twenty-five a fall of nearly seventeen per cent.; yet, from having reached the unusual rate of one in one thousand and sixteen in 1834, leaving the average as one in eight hundred and nine, which however is not less than eighty-

six and a half per cent. better than in the former period, when the ratio stood at one in four hundred and thirty three.

Looking now to the amount of cases, &c. in 1836, the following appears to have been their extent :—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	148	310
Concerned	252	478
Convicted	163	212
Offences.		
Cases	1,099	517
Concerned	2,676	2,048
Convicted	1,297	657

Comparing these two periods, 1836, it being premised, acknowledged to be the worst year of the four, the exhibition appears little favorable to the condition of the district in the second. Cases of a heinous character having increased to the fearful extent of one hundred and nine per cent., whilst the parties concerned have advanced nearly ninety per cent. from two hundred and fifty-two to four hundred and seventy-eight, being to every case 1.54 against 1.70 during the earlier period—convictions too had been comparatively less, although in the aggregate maintaining an increase numerically of *thirty* per cent., the advance in crime however leaves the proportion to the cases only 0.68 to each instead of 1.10; so that above one half or say fifty-eight per cent. evaded the punishment of their crimes.

Cases of less moment certainly had experienced a considerable reduction but so also had the convictions for them, the falling off being equal to fifty-three per cent., at the same time the number of parties concerned had not equally declined, they being only some twenty-three and a half per cent. fewer in number; so that the proportion to each case was 3.96 against 2.43; whilst convictions, less in number by forty-nine per cent., were more than equal in proportion to the cases, being 1.25 against 1.18 to each.

A reflective view of the total number of offenders in this district exhibits a range of from a total of two thousand one hundred and eight in 1833, to two thousand five hundred and fifty-six in 1836, being an accession of twenty-one

per cent. but the intermediate years were full five and twenty per cent. under these amounts, and by this means the average is reduced to one thousand nine hundred and fifty-five, which, placed in contrast with the two thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight from 1823 to 1826, shews a reduction between the two periods equal to more than thirty-six per cent. It will not be extraordinary therefore, that with this extensive falling off in the number of offenders a corresponding one should be found in that of the convictions which averaged in the latter period of review one thousand one hundred and twenty-five, ranging from nine hundred and ninety-four in 1833, to one thousand five hundred and sixty-five in 1836, against one thousand four hundred and sixty, equal to a decrease of twenty three per cent. The proportion to offenders having been however fifty-eight per cent., against nearly fifty per cent. in the former period; on which ground this must be considered an improved one, though not to the extent that might have been expected considering the increased attention this district had attracted, nevertheless on the whole Beerbhoom must be conceded to have maintained its place as a good district above the average of the Division.

CHAPTER VIII.

Summary of Crimes, &c. in the fifteen districts forming the North Western Division of the Bengal Presidency.

Having now brought to a close the review of crime in this the First Division of the Bengal Presidency, in so far as respects the individual districts it is as well to pause in consideration of the total amount of that part of the work: commencing with the following table:

	Extent.			Crimes.			Offences.			Total.			Proportion of offenders to Population being one in
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	
First Divn.													
1833 .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33,600	14,680	578
1834 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33,461	15,080	581
1835 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,896	14,006	672
1836 ..	..	..	..	4,620	10,802	4,979	8,403	19,058	9,437	13,023	29,540	14,819	658
Total..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,25,697	58,585	..
Average	73,511	19,424,502	25,058	4,620	10,802	4,929	8,403	19,058	9,437	13,023	31,474	14,646	617

Whilst the want of all particular information, during the first three years, is so much to be regretted; it must be observed that the difference in reports on the same subject, made through different channels, places the total of concerned

parties and convicted criminals for 1836 at variance, the latter to the extent of 403 and the former to the number of 320, forming also the results of this year, being the only one for which details are available, to be taken as the one of comparison in most points in the absence of an actual average.

By the changes that took place in the intermediate ten years in the disposal of the different zillahs, and the remodelling of their jurisdictions, it will be observed that the entire area of the division had been increased upwards of fifteen per cent., whilst the population contained on the new area, extended to seventy-three thousand five hundred and eleven square miles was nineteen millions four hundred and twenty-four thousand five hundred and two, or an increase in the division only equal to nearly twelve per cent., the difference on jungle uninhabited land reducing the ratio of population to the square mile to 250.58 inhabitants against 271.87 in former times.

Where the greater extent of jurisdiction, as well as of population is considered, a marked improvement becomes evident in the extent of crimes, whilst a recurrence to the lessened density of population bears out sufficiently, what has been said previously, of the corresponding lessening of crime, and its increase being concomitant with a closer approximation of the inhabitants; and this diminution of criminals is very evident in the proportion of offenders shewn to the population, which between 1833 and 1836 averaged one in six hundred and seventeen, whilst in the former period it had stood at one in three hundred and forty-five, an improvement equal to nearly eighty per cent. This, moreover, for the first three years, has shewn a regular progressive improvement, 1835 being however far the best of the four.

As before pointed out, the returns do not allow of the comparison it would have been desirable to make in the several divisions of the subject during the series in a progressive form, as has been done in the former period, the review therefore is necessarily very limited, as it comprises only one year, except as to the general total of offenders and convictions: continuing with this however it becomes apparent that the cases of heinous crimes have experienced the almost unprecedented decline of thirty-five per cent., whilst with respect to the number of those concerned in such serious crimes; the improvement is yet more conspicuous and amounts to very nearly forty per cent., notwithstanding the increased extent of jurisdiction added to the division. Those in 1836 amounted to only ten thousand eight hundred and two against seventeen thousand seven

hundred and six: and being to each case 2.34 against 2.48, some nearly six per cent. better therefore even in this respect.

Convictions for such crimes also, in even a numerical point of view, had multiplied some two and a half per cent., but in proportion to the number concerned, and to the number of cases, the ratio they bore appears more favorable even than could have been expected; in numbers they bear as four thousand nine hundred and nineteen against four thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, which as respects offenders was forty-six per cent. against only twenty-seven and a half per cent., the average between 1823 and 1826, and amounting to 1.08 to each case against only 0.68; itself sufficient, when the comparison is made, to restore confidence in the executive department.

In miscellaneous offences the number of cases shews a still greater reduction, eight thousand four hundred and three, against sixteen thousand six hundred and nine, the difference being forty-nine and one-third per cent.: whilst the number concerned being nineteen thousand and fifty-eight, against thirty-two thousand seven hundred and fifty, is equal to a decrease of nearly forty-two per cent., the difference in respect to convictions being only thirty-two per cent., gives above forty-nine as the proportion of offenders convicted, against forty-two per cent. in the former period, and to each case 1.12 persons against 0.84, an improvement in ratio equal to thirty-three per cent. Before proceeding further it is worthy of remark that the proportion of heinous crimes as compared with the whole extent of criminal proceedings, was, in the former period, in proportion of cases, bore as thirty per cent., but between 1833 and 1836 by the great falling off in miscellaneous cases had increased to thirty-five per cent.: whilst in parties concerned in these last four years, the ratio was thirty-four per cent. against thirty-five per cent. in the first period of review, or it would appear nearly equal, perhaps were it possible to correct the difference pointed out in the reports recorded, it would be found quite so. But in convictions there appears a marked attention must have been shewn to the punishment of crimes of a serious character, these being to the whole in this respect a ratio of thirty-four per cent., against twenty-six per cent. in the period between 1823 and 1826.

Still continuing the position before maintained, that the history of crime, in so extensive a tract as is comprized in this division, must rather be sought in a review of the whole, than in any inspection of parts only, it becomes necessary that the total, including every description of cases with the offenders and convict-

ed generally should be subjected to observation. With respect to the number of cases, however, we are so far without *data* as before noted, that these are only given for the single year 1836, which on comparison with the average of the period before noted ranging from 1823 to 1826, exhibits thirteen thousand and twenty-three, against twenty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty-three, being a decrease equal to fifty-three per cent.; an extent certainly most unexpected, as the result of only ten years improved legislation.

With this however, as the result in this respect, one is naturally led to look more closely into the variations that have occurred in the gradation of offenders during the four years from 1833 to 1836, ranging as they have done, from thirty-three thousand six hundred in the first, to twenty-nine thousand five hundred and forty in the last year, the difference being fully twelve per cent. on the side of improvement; leaving the average thirty-one thousand four hundred and seventy-four, against fifty thousand four hundred and fifty-six in the first period of review, a diminution in the amount of criminals, &c. equal to no less than thirty-seven and a half per cent.; a degree of good effected to the peaceable portion of the community highly deserving of notice, although not equal in proportion to what might have been expected, from what appeared in the number of cases, which therefore shew 2.41 to each instead of the 2.12 of the former period.

Our next subject is the convictions which cannot be said to have varied much during the period, except so far as the falling off in 1835. The fairest way however of viewing these is in a comparison with the number of offenders thus:

1833................ forty-four per cent.
1834................ forty-five per cent.
1835................ forty-eight per cent.
1836................ fifty per cent.

Against,

1823................ twenty-eight per cent
1824................ forty-three per cent.
1325................ forty-one per cent.
1826................ thirty-eight per cent.

leaving the whole average of our last period from 1833 to 1836 at forty-six per cent. of those concerned in every description of offence, against thirty-seven per

cent. between 1823 and 1826, the entire number in the former time, averaging twenty-two and a half less, numerically, than in the latter; being 1.12 to each case against 0.79.

In fine viewing this period of four years there is much to be satisfied with, although crimes bore a proportion of thirty-five per cent. amongst cases; and thirty-four per cent. in amount of offenders; yet, as in the convictions for crimes there are thirty-four per cent. in lieu of twenty-six, a fair inference, combining with the details above exhibited, may be drawn, that much advance has been made,—an improved Police superintendence,—and suppression of more serious offences.

In conclusion the work of the Magistrates appears to have been reduced; the amount average of cases having been only eight hundred and sixty-eight, or just three, instead of eight per diem, a reduction in fact equal to nearly forty-six per cent. ranging pretty nearly as before.

CHAPTER IX.

Analysis of Crime from 1833 *to* 1836, *with their relative proportions to the population, &c. in Mymunsing, Dacca, Fureedpore or Jelalpore, Sylhet, Bakurgunj, Tipperah and Noakollee, Chuttagong, Hooglee, Burdwan, Bankorah, Ramghur, &c. Twenty-four-Pergunnahs, Baraset, Jessore, Nuddea, Midnapore, and Cuttack.*

It is not necessary in this chapter to repeat the apologetic observations already expressed in the opening of the seventh Chapter, which are, it is to be regretted, and might be expected, equally applicable here:

		Extent.			Crimes, Offences, &c.		
		Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Parties concerned.	Convicted.	Proportion of offenders to population, being *one* in
1833	Mymunsing	5,025	1,634,1[illegible]	325.21	1,274	690	1,282
	Dacca	2,400	542,540	226.06	1,489	1,017	364
	Fureedpore, or Jelalpore	4,500	556,949	123.76	2,754	949	202
	Sylhet	5,550	1,083,720	195.26	1,437	864	754
	Bakurgunj	4,750	737,765	155.32	1,659	1,014	445
	Tipperah & Noakollee	7,387	1,240,044	167.87	2,400	1,003	517
	Chuttagong	2,980	700,800	235.17	436	218	1,607
	Hooglee	2,509	1,508,843	601.37	3,029	1,216	498
	Burdwan	3,776	1,673,460	353.46	2,531	611	661
	Bankorah, Ramghur, &c.	29,420	3,557,725	120.92	2,106	1,300	1,689
	24-Pergunnahs	2,296	722,814	314.81	3,536	1,131	204
	Baraset	3,588	336,743	93.85	1,306	704	258
	Jessore	5,940	893,038	150.34	4,724	1,824	189
	Nuddea	5,400	836,900	154.98	714	413	1,172
	Midnapore	6,782	1,363,228	201.15	2,430	1,412	561
	N. & S. Cuttack	9,040	1,984,620	219.53	3,173	1,687	626
		1,01,343	19,393,372	191.36	34,998	16,053	554

Year	District	Extent.			Crimes, Offences, &c.		
		Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Parties concerned.	Convicted.	Population of offenders to population, being *one* in
1834	Mymunsing ..	....	......	....	1,517	1,031	1,077
	Dacca ..	....	......	....	1,991	1,633	272
	Fureedpore, or Jelalpore ..	....	......	....	2,021	835	275
	Sylhet ..	....	......	....	1,616	950	671
	Bakurgunj ..	....	......	....	1,466	788	503
	Tipperah & Noakollee	....	......	....	2,804	1,388	442
	Chuttagong ..	....	......	....	1,318	585	532
	Hooglee ..	....	......	....	1,953	983	773
	Burdwan ..	....	......	....	2,090	723	801
	Bankorah, Ramghur, &c. ..	....	......	....	1,041	904	3,417
	24-Pergunnahs ..	....	......	....	3,276	1,781	221
	Baraset ..	....	......	....	947	479	345
	Jessore ..	....	......	....	3,448	1,270	259
	Nuddea ..	....	......	....	1,083	570	772
	Midnapore ..	....	......	....	1,791	932	761
	N. & S. Cuttack ..	....	......	......	2,870	1,447	692
					31,232	16,299	126
1835	Mymunsing ..		....	....	1,232	833	1,326
	Dacca ..		....	....	1,400	1,140	388
	Fureedpore or Jelalpore		....	....	1,894	942	294
	Sylhet ..		....	....	1,557	723	696
	Bakurgunj ..		....	....	2,464	1,203	299
	Tipperah & Noakollee		....	....	2,496	1,056	498
	Chuttagong ..		....	....	1,940	895	361
	Hooglee ..		....	....	3,190	1,504	473
	Burdwan ..		....	....	3,498	965	478
	Bankorah, Ramghur, &c.		....	....	3,578	2,089	994
	24-Pergunnahs ..		....	....	3,193	1,879	226
	Baraset ..		....	....	1,193	534	282
	Jessore ..		....	....	3,283	1,415	272
	Nuddea ..		....	....	2,405	352	348
	Midnapore ..		....	....	1,809	980	754
	N. & S. Cuttack ..		....	....	2,728	1,533	727
					37,860	18,043	517

		Extent.			Crimes, Offences, &c.		
		Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Parties concern-ed.	Convict-ed.	Proportion of offenders to population, being *one* in
1836	Mymunsing ...	......	....	......	1,207	688	1,354
	Dacca ...	......	....	......	996	663	545
	Fureedpore, or Jelalpore ...	......	....	......	*2,223	908	248
	Sylhet ...	......	....	......	2,156	1,220	502
	Bakurgunj ...	......	....	......	3,495	2,584	211
	Tipperah & Noakollee	......	....	......	2,438	919	554
	Chuttagong ...	......	....	......	2,101	1,071	334
	Hooglee ...	......	....	......	3,235	1,477	466
	Burdwan ...	......	....	......	3,442	1,197	486
	Bankorah, Ramghur, &c. ..	......	....	......	1,166	750	3,051
	24-Pergunnahs ...	......	....	......	2,403	2,081	301
	Baraset ...	......	....	......	*1,149	572	293
	Jessore ...	......	....	......	2,616	1,440	341
	Nuddea ...	......	....	......	2,281	984	366
	Midnapore ...	......	....	......	2,064	1,022	660
	N. & S. Cuttack ...	......	....	......	3,114	1,589	637
					36,086	19,165	537
Average of four years.	Mymunsing ...	5,025	1,634,183	325.21	1,307	810	1,250
	Dacca ...	2,400	542,540	226.06	1,469	1,113	370
	Fureedpore, or Jelalpore ...	4,500	556,949	123.76	2,223	908	251
	Sylhet ...	5,550	1,083,720	195.26	1,691	939	641
	Bakurgunj ...	4,750	737,765	155.32	2,271	1,397	326
	Tipperah & Noakollee	7,387	1,240,044	167.87	2,534	1,091	489
	Chuttagong ...	2,980	700,800	235.17	1,449	692	484
	Hooglee ...	2,509	1,508,843	601.37	2,852	1,295	529
	Burdwan ...	3,776	1,673,460	353.46	2,890	874	579
	Bankorah, Ramghur, &c.	29,420	3,557,725	120.92	1,973	1,271	1,803
	24-Pergunnahs ...	2,296	722,814	314.81	3,102	1,718	233
	Baraset ...	3,588	336,743	93.85	1,149	572	293
	Jessore ...	5,940	893,038	150.34	3,518	1,487	254
	Nuddea ...	5,400	836,900	154.98	1,621	580	516
	Midnapore ...	6,782	1,363,228	201.15	2,023	1,086	674
	N. & S. Cuttack ...	9,040	1,984,620	219.53	2,971	1,564	668
		1,01,343	19,393,372	191.36	35,043	17,397	553

Fureedpore and Baraset are taken on the average of the three previous years, no report appearing for 1836.

Pursuing the course heretofore adopted in the comparison of crime, the following observations occur to us:

MYMENSING—shews, with reference to the previous period of comparison, a most extraordinary improvement; for whereas at that time, the average ratio of crime was as one in two hundred and ninety-four of the inhabitants, it amounted under the present period, to but one in one thousand two hundred and fifty; it were desirable indeed could this extensive charge be accounted for, but unfortunate no speculations even, can be formed from the reports at hand, and it is left to surmise therefore to imagine that the extent of crime being so great, caused greater activity on part of the authorities, resulting in successful suppression; for as it is, during the period in question, Mymensing appears the best district in the division, the only one surpassing it being the wild tracts of Ramghur, &c.,—and one hundred and twenty-six better than the division average, running too throughout the whole four years of review commencing with one in one thousand two hundred and eighty-two in 1833, and closing at one in one thousand three hundred and fifty-four in 1836.

As in the last division there are full reports only for 1836, on which comparisons may be made, and these must be resorted to as the only *data* in this respect; as before, comparing with the average of 1823 to 1826:

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases........................	203	202
Concerned....................	2,097	359
Convictions, &c.	237	132
Offences.		
Cases........................	1,184	848
Concerned....................	2,227	1,920
Convictions, &c.	949	299

This will not however bear out the decrease of crime that the total of the period so prominently exhibits, and cannot therefore be held as a criterion of comparison, so little so indeed that the details must be cautiously held up, as this statement would shew what is incompatible with the general returns, that the state of crime was about stationary. For as regards the general ratio the average of the four previous years is one in two hundred and ninety-four, whereas

in 1836, it was only one in one thousand three hundred and fifty-four; the decrease in crimes of a heinous nature shewing as nothing in amount of cases; this however is fully counter-balanced by the amount of offenders, being a decrease of eighty-two per cent.; and although the convictions were actually forty-four per cent. less in general numbers, they were in fact more in proportion to the offenders, the convictions being of three in the four years, a little more than eleven per cent., and in 1836, nearly sixty per cent.; whilst to each case there was in the former period 10.33 parties concerned and 1.16 convicted, against 1.77 in 1836 as parties concerned, and 0.65 of convicted, a falling off however in the latter instance of some forty-four per cent.: the convictions being in proportion to the offenders in the average of 1823 to 1826, only three and a half per cent., against thirty-six per cent. in 1836. In mere offences however this so far shews differently, that in the number of cases appears a decrease of above twenty-eight per cent., with a decrease also of offenders of fourteen per cent., and decrease of convictions of forty-six per cent. The offenders being in the first period to the cases 1.93 and convictions 0.60, whereas in 1836 they appear as 2.26 the former, and 0.34 the latter, a falling off of not less than forty-three per cent. Very different from the general shew as may be seen following.

The general state of crime, as before observed, was exceedingly favorable in its proportion to the inhabitants during the present period of review, and in number of parties concerned still appears to preserve a tolerably fixed ratio during the whole four years, the average being one thousand three hundred and seven, against four thousand three hundred and twenty-four, between 1823 and 1826, a decrease of nearly seventy per cent. At the same time that convictions, although in the first and last years of the period nearly on a par, having been six hundred and ninety in the year 1833, and six hundred and eighty-eight in 1836, yet in the intermediate years these had risen to one thousand and thirty-one in 1834, and eight hundred and thirty-three in 1835, raising the average to eight hundred and ten, against one thousand one hundred and eighty-six in the former period of review—or a decrease of nearly thirty-two per cent. The average however of persons convicted being, in the former instance, about twenty-seven per cent., and in the latter period about sixty-two, exhibiting and supporting by evidence too palpable to reject, that the district, during the intermediate ten years, must have made a wonderful advance in juridical Government,

of the grounds of which it is much to be regretted we have no record, although so satisfactorily proved, that, from one of the worst, Mymensing had become one of the best districts in the division; being in point of criminals forty per cent. better than the average, and of crimes twenty-five and a half per cent.

DACCA—notwithstanding its bad position in point of crime, exhibits an improvement between the two periods of review; inasmuch as the average during the present one was one offender in three hundred and seventy inhabitants, instead of one in two hundred and twenty-two, an improvement equivalent to some forty-eight per cent., yet this still leaves it sixty-six per cent. below the average of the division, and one of the six worst districts in it; at the same time, however, improvement may be considered progressing, the ratio of 1833 having been one in three hundred and sixty-four; and in 1836, one in five hundred and forty-five.

Adverting to the single year 1836 of fuller information, the following is found to be the condition of the district:

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	130	140
Concerned	491	307
Convictions	172	108
Offences.		
Cases	913	330
Concerned	1,772	689
Convictions	1,055	190

Here, in crimes, was an increase of nearly eight per cent. in cases, trifling it is true, but still discouraging; this however is brightly relieved by its having been found, that the parties concerned were thirty-nine per cent. fewer in number; convictions, on the other hand, shew only, as nearly thirty-two per cent. on the number of the concerned, against thirty-four per cent. in the former period; the parties to each case at that time having been 3.77, of whom were convicted 1.32 against at the present period 2.12, as concerned, and 0.77 convicted. In offences, again, the decrease was decided falling fully sixty-three per cent. in the number of cases; and in persons concerned sixty-one per cent.;—here however, the falling off should have ceased, but it is found to extend also to the convictions,

which had numerically decreased in a proportion of not less than eighty-two per cent.; whether however this depreciation arose from frivolous cases being the chief of those brought forward, or from discouragement to the placing misdemeanors before the authorities, it is impossible to say; convictions in the former period forming sixty per cent. of the offenders, a proportion of 1.16 to each case; parties to which were 1.95, whereas in 1836, there were only twenty-seven and a half per cent. or 0.57 to each case, committed by 2.09 individuals.

Turning to the general state of crime so far as data allow, shewing some improvement in the number of the accused, having been, on the average, one thousand four hundred and sixty-nine, against two thousand two hundred and sixty-three, or a decrease of thirty-five per cent. The reduction too appears to have chiefly depended on the last year of the series, a comparison of 1833 and 1836 shewing one thousand four hundred and eighty-nine in the first, and nine hundred and ninety-six in the latter, being a favorable reduction equal to thirty-three per cent. Convictions exhibit also a considerable falling off, less however it may be observed, than the reduction in the parties concerned fully justifies, having been in 1833 one thousand and seventeen, and in 1836 six hundred and sixty-three, being less numerically by thirty-four per cent.; but then it has to be considered that compared with the offenders these amounts afford rates of seventy-one per cent. in the first of these two years, at the same time however this falling off in number still upholds convictions at sixty-one per cent.; on comparing the two periods we find convictions standing at an average of one thousand two hundred and twenty-seven in the first, and of only one thousand one hundred and thirteen in the second, a falling off numerically of nine per cent.; however whilst the proportion to the offenders having been only fifty-two per cent., in the first period, had risen in the second to seventy-six, being no less than twenty-seven above the ratio of the Division, thus shewing that only one-fourth of the number escaped the punishment they deserved; and, the conclusion come to is evidently favorable in these respects to this district, in comparison with others in the Division, offenders having been nearly thirty-three per cent. less than the average, and convictions two and a half per cent. more, notwithstanding the depreciated proportion as respects the population; and the conclusion may fairly be drawn to a greater juridical vigilance calculated to increase.

Fureedpore, or Jelalpore—was one of the worst districts in respect to extent of crime during the former period of review, and has maintained that

respectable position during the present; the proportion of offenders having been in the first one in two hundred thirty-one of the inhabitants, and in the second one in two hundred and fifty-one; thus retrograding nearly nine per cent. in comparison, being fifty-two per cent., below the average of the division, with which it stands second in comparative amount, the range being in each year progressing from one in two hundred and two in 1833, to one in two hundred and ninety-four in 1835, falling about fourteen per cent. again in the last year reviewed.

With respect to the year 1836 the condition of the district is not particularly described in this, as with other districts, and remarks must therefore be confined to the general state of crime; so far as official returns allow; a favorable movement appears in this branch, but so slight as scarcely to be worth mentioning, considering the very bad condition of the district at both periods: the parties concerned averaging in this period two thousand two hundred and twenty-three, and in that two thousand five hundred and fifty, being a decrease equal to not quite thirteen per cent. the reduction appears progressing pretty regularly in the second and third years, the first being very much above the average, and the last one of average from the absence of any report during these years, the decrease appears between 1833 and 1834 twenty-seven per cent. between 1834 and 1835 six per cent. and between 1833 and 1835 thirty-five per cent. it is fair then to presume that the last reports would have confirmed this progress towards a better state of affairs. Convictions have a numerical average nearly alike, being nine hundred and nine in the former and nine hundred and eight in the present period, no favorable alteration appears during the series, except between 1833 and 1834 when the falling off was twelve per cent., but from the immediate rise restored this apparent neglect. Compared, however, with the offenders, the ratio of convictions in the present period, is more favorable than in the first one, the amount then having been only thirty-five per cent. and now a little above forty per cent., being still however nine per cent. under the average of the division; the number of offenders being at the same time only one and a half per cent. in excess, so that above one-seventh escaped punishment; it must be concluded therefore that this district has in no respect improved, but remained marked as a bad one.

Sylhet—appears one of the better districts with respect to crime, surpassing the average of the division by about sixteen per cent., the ratio being only one in six hundred and forty-one inhabitants, although somewhat receding in the last

year of review being so to speak thirty-three per cent. worse in 1836, than it was in 1833. A comparison with the former period of review however, shews a very great improvement, the ratio having then been one in three hundred and seventy-five of the population, over which this is, full seventy-one per cent. in advance.

The general condition in the one year of 1836, is seen as follows:—

	Annual Average. 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	230	543
Concerned	666	439
Convictions, &c.	303	258
Offences.		
Cases	830	873
Concerned	2,221	1,717
Convictions	886	948

Notwithstanding such evident improvement in the state of the district, during the average of the period under review, this year, being the last of the series, certainly appears to hold but sorry matter for comparison, the increase in cases of heinous crimes, shewing no less than one hundred and thirty-six per cent., at the same time that the perpetrators of them, were much less than of the fewer number, less in fact numerically, by some thirty-five per cent., a circumstance remarkable, as it is conducing readily to the belief, that the majority of cases, were by gangs of dacoits, at which one individual could be engaged in many affairs; whilst convictions, rendered more difficult by the association, were much fewer in every respect, being for this excess of cases, less, by nearly fifteen per cent. than in the former period: the individuals being to each case at that time 2.90; with convictions, bearing a proportion of 1.32: whilst in the present, the latter were only 0.47, and the parties concerned 0.81; exceeding however the proportion then existing, and shewing that less than one-half, say only two-fifths, escaped the consequences of their crimes. In regard to offences the state of affairs bears a less unfavorable aspect, the increase being only some five per cent. whilst the parties were less by twenty-three per cent.: on the other hand convictions shew an increase of seven per cent., thereby raising the proportion to the cases as compared, from 1.06 to nearly 1.09, with perpetrators 1.97 instead of 2.67.

The general state of crime appears on the average, as before mentioned, favorable in its results, the number of accused persons having been one thousand six hundred and ninety-one, against two thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, no less than forty-one per cent.; even here however, the average is raised by the great increase in the last year of the series, being two thousand one hundred and fifty-six, whereas, were the three previous years taken, the average would appear only, one thousand five hundred and thirty-six, under which the reduction of offenders would have been nearly forty-six per cent. Convictions leave a numerical average, of nine hundred and thirty-nine against one thousand one hundred and ninety, a very great falling off certainly, equalling twenty-one per cent. and singularly enough, the greatest amount in any of the four years, is found in the last, when they reached one thousand two hundred and twenty, most probably arised from the increased vigilance produced by the so evidently increasing an extent of crime, and the determination to make severe examples: the general result forming however, a punishment of fifty-five per cent. of the offenders, or six per cent. above the usual average of the division, and fourteen above what the district exhibited in the period between 1823 and 1826, when the ratio was forty-one per cent.

Bakurgunj—although decidedly better in position, as regards extent of crime, than it was during the former period of review, to an extent equal to forty-four per the ratio, being one in three hundred and twenty-six, against one in two hundred and twenty-six, yet as compared with the average of the division, reports were far from satisfactory, as it was still full forty-one per cent. behind. This appears to have occurred chiefly in the two last years, when the average was one in two hundred and fifty-five, whereas in the two former it was one in four hundred and seventy-four.

The year 1836 shews the following particulars of comparison with the former period, as deserving remark :—

Heinous Crimes.	Annual Average. 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Cases	181	101
Concerned	508	542
Convictions	414	383

Offences.	Annual average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Cases	727	685
Concerned	2,531	2,058
Convictions	995	1,411

The most remarkable feature of this statement, is perhaps the large decrease of cases and increase of offenders in crimes of a heinous character, the former being forty-four per cent. less, and the latter nearly seven per cent. more, than in the last period; convictions too had been more amongst the less, in the aggregate number of offenders, than appear amongst the greater, by somewhat above seven per cent. whilst for general results, we find that in this year the parties concerned in each case, were as 5.36 with convictions as 1.79, or just one-third, whereas in 1823 to 1826 these stood as 2.80 of the first, and 2.28 of the last, a proportion showing, that in this respect at least, the juridical government of the district must have have seriously declined. Turning to offences of a milder character a better state of things may be observed, for in the number of cases a decline appears to the extent of nearly six per cent., the number of offenders being less by about nineteen per cent. whilst on the other hand convictions had risen forty-one per cent., or nearly seventy per cent. of the parties concerned, instead of thirty-nine; a decided improvement, that leaves 3.0 to each case, as perpetrators, and 2.06 convicted, (above two-thirds,) against, in the former four years 3.48 and 1.36.

The state of crime, as taken on this four years' average, exhibits in the number of accused a favorable result, the decrease having been full twenty-five per cent. amounting in the present period to two thousand two hundred and seventy-one, against three thousand and thirty-nine, but it may be imagined that some disorganization, or neglect must have arisen in the last two years of review, since the average number of parties criminally concerned, was in the first two years, one thousand five hundred and sixty-two, whilst in the second, it reached two thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine, full twenty-seven per cent. more, a more liberal and perhaps rational ground, however, for this increase may be found in increased vigilance, which brought more offenders to judgment, and this is borne out in the in-

creased amount of convictions shewn in the corresponding periods. Convictions on the average of the four years, amounted to one thousand three hundred and ninety-seven, against one thousand four hundred and nine in the former period, or nearly on a par in the two periods; but in 1833 and 1834, the average was nine hundred and two in each year, whilst in 1835 and 1836, it was one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven—nearly double; the proportion to the offenders being in the second two years, sixty-three per cent., and in the first, fifty-seven: the average punishment of crime having been sixty-one per cent., or twelve per cent. above the division rate, against fifty-nine per cent. between 1823 and 1826, a slight improvement, but which on a comparison with the years 1835 and 1836 strengthens the supposition that it was progressive, and evincing an energy of vigilance calculated in a few years to effect highly favorable results.

TIPPERAH and NOAKALLEE—are next in order of review, and these, it will be observed, have rather fallen off in average extent of crime, having been between 1833 and 1836, one in four hundred and eighty-nine inhabitants, against one in five hundred and fifty-two during the former period; the increase equal to eleven and a half per cent. and this would have been greater but for the advance made in the last year of the series, when it rose to one in five hundred in fifty-four, the average of the two preceding ones being only one in four hundred and seventy.

The one year affording comparison of particular results, (1836) gives the following:—

	Annual Average. 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	124	125
Concerned	691	689
Convictions	292	314
Offences.		
Cases	877	1,646
Concerned	1,793	1,749
Convictions	867	768

On viewing the state of serious crime but little difference is observable, except in the number of cases, which had increased seventy-three per cent. without adding to the number of offenders, and not quite eight per cent. to the

convictions: a most remarkable circumstance for which there is no accounting, these last forming forty-five per cent. of those concerned, the average of whom to each case was 3.20 and of convictions 1.46, these having been in the former period 2.80 of the first, and 2.28 of the second, convictions being in a proportion of forty-two per cent. Milder offences exhibit very similar results, the increase of cases having been nearly eighty-eight per cent. whilst the parties concerned had fallen two and a half per cent., not much certainly, but extraordinary as compared with such an increase of cases: the convictions at the same time, appearing on the decline to the extent of more than nineteen per cent. although shewing nearly forty-four per cent. of the offenders, those of the previous period having been forty-eight per cent. and being to each case as only 0.46 perpetrated by 1.06; against 2.04 as the latter, and 0.98 as the former between 1823 and 1826.

Coming now to the general state of crime in a comparison between the two periods of four years, it is observable that a slight increase has been the result, equal to two per cent. in the number of parties concerned; the present years averaging two thousand five hundred and thirty-four, and the former two thousand four hundred and eighty-four, the advance being pretty general throughout the series but greater in 1834, when they reached two thousand eight hundred and four. In convictions, the average number was one thousand and ninety-one against one thousand one hundred and fifty-nine, a decrease equal to fourteen per cent. this falling off appearing chiefly in the last two years, especially 1836, when they were only nine hundred and nineteen, the greatest amount being found in 1834, when they found nearly fifty per cent. of the offenders, the average being only fifty-three per cent., or six below the general ratio of the Division, and three under that of the period of our comparison.

Chutagong—too, like the last two zillahs exhibits a falling off, in the proportion of nine amongst its inhabitants, being one in four hundred and eighty-four, instead of one in five hundred and sixty-nine, the difference being equal to fifteen per cent. This falling off appears to have taken place, solely in the last three years, as in 1833, the district had attained the excellence of standing at only one criminal in one thousand six hundred and two; so that the average of the last three years would be, one in three hundred and ninety-two, and the actual falling off, thirty-one per cent., but as compared with the first year of the

series, no less than the enormous depreciation of seventy-five, although how this is to be accounted for, does not appear from any reports procurable.

Reverting to the one year of comparison, or 1836, the following comparative view is exhibited :—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	51	87
Concerned	459	534
Convicted	151	334
Offences.		
Cases	498	832
Concerned	772	1,677
Convicted	326	895

Throughout the whole course of crime therefore, in this year, there appears a conspicuous advance, corresponding however in the convictions, as well as, in cases and offences, so that, on leave, it may be presumed that official vigilance has kept pace with the increasing demand for it: the number of heinous cases shews an increase equal to, not less than seventy per cent., a fearful evidence of increased crime; but it is to be observed, the parties concerned had not added to their numbers in like proportion, though still quite sufficiently so, to mark a bad state of affairs, the addition amounting to sixteen per cent. whilst convictions had progressed at least one hundred and twenty-one per cent., forming sixty-two per cent. of the parties accused; a sufficient proof of exertion on the part of those entrusted with the Police to shew that they had not been idle, making 3.84 convicted out of 6.14 concerned, as more than half against 2.96 out of 9.00 during the previous period. Coming to minor offences too, a great increase is observable to the extent of no less than sixty-seven per cent. in the number of cases, and one hundred and seventeen in offenders—but here too, the convictions appear to have gone ahead, though not so extensively as in more serious cases, having reached only fifty-three per cent.; this however shews as 1.07 convictions out of 2.01 accused in each case against 0.65 out of 1.55 in the former period. The state of crime generally throughout the years exhibits the following features.—Firstly, that as the amount of offenders in the present period averages one thousand four hundred and forty-nine, and that between 1823 and 1826, one thousand two hundred and thirty-one, there has been an increase

of fourteen and a half in offenders between the two times, and this increase has been going on during the last three years, the average of which would be, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six; whereas in 1833 there were only four hundred and thirty-six, this last however was so very low, and followed by, amounts so strongly contrasting with it, that the conclusion naturally to be drawn is, not that the district had been more virtuous, but that the official authorities had been less vigilant, especially as we find it severally affecting the convictions. Convictions on the average, contrasting the two periods, produce an average of six hundred and ninety-two, in this, eight hundred and fifty between 1834 and 1836, against four hundred and seventy-seven in the former one, or forty-five per cent. in advance, and forming forty-eight per cent. of the offenders affected: however, as it must naturally be, by the laxity apparent in the first year of the series, when the entire number was only two hundred and eighteen, but fifteen and a half per cent. of the average offenders. In point of comparison with the average of the division, it will be found that the ratio of those convicted, is one per cent. lower than it ought to be, although in number of parties to crime, thirty-four per cent. lower, arising from the convictions, having been thirty-six per cent. less in aggregate amount—a sufficient proof, were others not equally apparent, during the above review that much was wanting to bring the district again to a tolerable state even of juridical efficiency.

Hooglee—coming next in course of review, exhibits somewhat of improvement, having for its proportion of crime one in five hundred and twenty-nine, against an average of one in five hundred and seven between 1823 and 1826, equalling some four and a half per cent., but this would have been much worse, but for the small extent of crime that marks 1834, the average of the other three years having been one in four hundred and seventy-nine only, whilst that was one in seven hundred and seventy-three inhabitants. On the whole this district would appear below the division averages by four and a half per cent.

For the year 1836 we have the following comparative *data*:—

Heinous Crimes.	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Cases	123	259
Concerned	417	550

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Convictions	239	231
Offences.		
Cases	985	1,037
Concerned	2,213	2,685
Convictions	945	1,294

This shows a vast and extraordinary increase in the extent of criminal cases, equalling more than one hundred and ten per cent. Happily this fearful advance does not extend, to an equal degree in the number of parties concerned, amongst whom the advance has not gone beyond fifty-six per cent.; this however is bad enough, especially in a Zillah so near to the seat of Government, and shews a lamentable deficiency in the control of crime by the Police; especially accompanied, as it is, by a falling off, not in proportion only, but numerically even, of the convictions equal to 3.35 per cent.; little in amount certainly, but when the increase of offenders is considered, it serves to shew that neglect must have existed somewhere, and to prove that this cannot have arisen, from, as is often alleged, an increased vigilance on the part of the magisterial authority, causing a greater number of bad characters to be apprehended; for, when this is the case, convictions would also keep pace with the increase of apprehensions, as it is, these form only forty-two per cent. of the parties concerned, against fifty-seven and a quarter on the average between 1823 and 1826, the parties to each case having been then 3.39, and in the year 1836, 2.12, leading to the conclusion that the increase of crime had induced a greater individual boldness amongst its perpetrators, who ventured more frequently on such acts singly, and less frequently sought the protection afforded by numerous gangs. Of these too, it appears there were convicted to each case only 0.89 against 1.94, so that above half escaped any visitation for their foul acts. In further proof of the depreciated condition of the Zillah, in the protection afforded to the inhabitants, it is made evident that the increase so remarkable in heinous crimes; extended also, although not so seriously, to offences, which in amount of cases had advanced five and a quarter per cent., and in those concerned twenty-one per cent., but in this branch of review it is observable that the convictions, &c. were on the increase, corresponding to an extent of twenty-six and one-third per cent., leading almost naturally to the

conclusion that too much attention was bestowed on trifling cases, to the withdrawal of it from the suppression and punishment of serious ones. These convictions appear in proportion to the number of offenders as forty-eight per cent., against forty-two and three-fourths per cent., during the former period; and holding as 1.24 to each case perpetrated by 2.59 against 0·95 and 2.24; still more confirming the idea that an excess of attention had been bestowed on minor affairs to the neglect of the more heavy cases, an injury to the inhabitants of the most serious character.

The general state of crime during the four years of review now calls for attention, and for no little of serious consideration too,—for a comparison of the two periods shews an increase of crime rising from one thousand two hundred and thirty-one offenders, to two thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, or an advance of nearly one hundred and forty per cent., thus fully bearing out the depreciated condition of the district, as shewn in the more detailed data of 1836, and this—more particularly marked during the two last years of the series—averaging each, three thousand two hundred and thirteen, which appears twenty per cent. above that of the first two years and one hundred and sixty-one per cent. above the average of the four years from 1823 to 1826. Convictions however had not shewn any thing like a corresponding advance, for if they had, it is more than probable the offenders would have lessened, instead of increasing during the period of review, when knowledge and civilization had so notoriously advanced between the two periods, as it has done in Hooglee by the establishment of that noble institution, the Hooglee College, and its tributary schools, as well as by the acknowledged praiseworthy exertions of the Serampore missionaries; the number convicted averaging, in the four years, one thousand two hundred and ninety-five, against one thousand one hundred and eighty-four, the increase only nine per cent. In the face of such an enormous accession of crime, the proportion to the parties concerned being forty-five per cent., which has the merit, if such it may be termed, of not retrograding from the former period of review, being precisely what it averaged between 1823 and 1826, so that eleven twentieths of the offenders escaped the just reward of their crimes. This review shews further that in comparison with the rate of the Division, the rates were four per cent. below, and the number of those concerned in police cases thirty per cent. above the average. It is unnecessary to make any remark on these results, particularly as improvement at this period has been vaunted, the facts

speak for themselves, and pronounce that, this was decidedly one of the worst districts in point of extent, and correction of crime.

Burdwan.—In point of proportion of offenders to the extent of population shews a most decided improvement, for, from being the worst district except one, on the average between 1823 and 1826, it has been in this second period superior to the averages, being only one in five hundred and seventy-nine, instead of one in one hundred and ninety-seven, an improvement equal to some one hundred and ninety-four per cent.; this however was more marked in the two first years of the series, wherein the annual average appears one in seven hundred and thirty-one, whereas in the two latter ones, it reached only one in four hundred and eighty-two.

For the year 1836 the means of comparison appear as follows:—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	131	268
Concerned	428	1,067
Convictions	198	410
Offences.		
Cases	2,216	1.008
Concerned	5,589	2,575
Convictions	1,573	1,063

The most remarkable feature of which is, the very great increase in all that relates to crime, and the, as prominently marked, decrease, in every part of what concerns offences. In the former, the number of cases had advanced more than one hundred and four per cent., surpassing in number, by nineteen per cent., even the markedly bad year of the former series, 1825. In the number of those concerned it will be observed, there had also been an accession of one hundred and forty-nine per cent.: there is however this redeeming point, not discernable in the neighbouring district just reviewed, viz: that if crime and criminals had increased, convictions had increased also; to the extent of one hundred and seven per cent., so that against the forty-six and three quarters per cent. punished out of those concerned in the former four years, there appeared in 1836 nearly thirty-eight and a half per cent.,—a tolerable outturn, considering the increased difficulties imposed upon the authorities by such a vast accession of crime. The

whole being to each case 3.98 concerned, and 1.53 convicted, against 3.24 and 1.43 respectively in the former period of four years. In offences, there has been found a marked decrease, being fifty-four per cent. in the cases, nearly the same in the parties concerned, and at the same time not more than thirty-two per cent. in the convictions, evincing a degree of vigilance, that leaves the following results relatively to the number of cases;—the parties concerned being 2.55 to each, and the convictions 1.05, or two-fifths; against, as between 1823 and 1826, 2.52 and 0.71, not quite three-tenths.

In justice however one observation cannot but follow this exhibition of facts, as like its predecessor it shows, that attention, time, and exertion, would appear to have been frittered away on trifles, to the neglect of more important measures for protection of the lives and property of the inhabitants in the zillah. The general state of crime during the four years, next claims attention, in its comparison with the previous period, the average amount of offenders having been two thousand eighty hundred and ninety, against six thousand and fourteen,—a decrease of nearly fifty-two per cent., but this, as has been seen in the years before, consisted chiefly in petty cases; but it must be observed that there has been an increase of the same amount in the second two years of the series, over those of 1833 and 1834, equal to fifty per cent., so that the latter period was only forty-two per cent. below the average above shewn, whilst the former had been above sixty-one per cent. less. In convictions also there appears on the general averages, falling off of fifty per cent.; the former period of review showing one thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, and the present, only eight hundred and seventy-nine; and as the increase of offenders during 1824 has been remarked on, censurably; it is but just to observe that if these have increased, so also have the number convicted, to the extent of full sixty-nine per cent., having been thirty-one per cent. of those concerned in those two years, against twenty-eight during the first two years, the whole average having equalled thirty per cent., against thirty-nine and a half, during the former period as shewn at page 55. As compared with the average of the Division, this district must be admitted to have but an indifferent character, as the number of parties concerned was thirty-two per cent. higher, whilst that of convictions was nearly twenty per cent. lower, the proportion shewing a reduction of nineteen per cent.; so then seven-tenths escaped unscathed after their ill deeds.

Bankoorah, Ramghur, &c.—This is the largest and most populous district in the second division, forming twenty-nine per cent. of its superficial area, and containing somewhat more than eighteen per cent. of its population; yet will it be found with the least crime, the proportion of offenders being twelve inhabitants only, as one in eighteen hundred and three, fairly proving that, in considering the state of the police and its improvement in the executive department, must be based on the proportionate extent of crime amongst the population, and which is itself so evidently influenced by the space of ground which they inhabit, acting in an inverse ratio as that space becomes more contracted; a population congregated together closely in cities and large towns, being more criminal in such spots than when scattered over a larger space; for where this is the case, the association in gangs, for the commission of crimes less frequently takes place, and if formed becomes more easily an object for observation, and hence of prevention; besides which, even the detection of those committing crime, is more easy amongst a people so situated, than when dense masses of human beings are condensed, if the expression be allowable, together in cities or towns. In cultivated plains too, with the inhabitants, engaged chiefly in agricultural labor,—residing in small villages,—and scattered houses,—are generally known to each other, and the property of all is more equallized, every one being in some way dependent on his neighbour for the supply of his wants, and the enjoyment of his pleasures. At the same time opulence is but seldom met with, and the riches of the better class offer little prospect of undetected attack; whereas in more populous localities persons of all classes, and of every rank, of various degrees of poverty, or of wealth, too often made a subject for display, by the thoughtless or the vain, are forced into close contact with each other,—temptations are numerous,—the chances of discovery comparatively few,—the gratification of, and incitement to evil passions readily accessable; at the same time that individual character is little known or enquired into. Where it may almost be held as a natural axiom that crime increases as population is brought more closely together, even had there been no such proofs as this review exhibits; that of the contrary, its lessening as the people become separated, is so palpably shewn in this district, that it is nearly seventy per cent. in this respect below any other in the division, and nearly two-thirds less than it had been some ten years previous.

Comparing 1836, with the average between 1823 and 1826, the following appears the result:

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	1,129	106
Concerned	2,208	280
Convictions, &c.	833	182
Offences.		
Cases	1,535	325
Concerned	3,063	886
Convictions, &c.	1,506	611

The improvement exhibited in a comparison of these two periods is so extraordinary in its extent, as to appear almost incredible, were it not to be borne in mind that in the former these districts were in a disturbed, unsettled state, and in the latter they had for some time been placed under a better regulated system, wherein the principles which have been shewn above, have had fuller, and more distinct operation, and greater power of influence; this is more especially conspicuous in the proportion of convictions, so that it may be fairly assumed that to a better official vigilance, and a superior state of rule is attributable no small share in this improvement. The number of heinous offences shews a decrease to the enormous extent of above ninety per cent.; whilst that in the number of parties concerned is little short of a corresponding decrease, exhibiting as it does fully eighty-seven per cent.; the difference in convictions having been only a decrease of seventy-eight per cent. in general amount. Convictions and their proportions must however always be the test of improvement, or otherwise, and in this there appears, relatively to the parties concerned, a proportion of only thirty-eight per cent., in the first period, and of sixty-five per cent. in 1836, an improvement in itself equal to some seventy-one per cent., these latter being 1.71 to each case out of 2.64 concerned, above one-half, against 2.02 of the latter, and 0.74 of the former, or two-thirds against three-eighths. Coming then to offences it will be found that in these also there has been a great reduction in every respect, the number of cases having lessened to the extent of nearly seventy-nine per cent.; whilst the number of parties concerned had decreased by seventy-one per cent., at the same time that it will be observed that the proportion of convictions had advanced considerable, although the numerical amount had fallen by fifty-nine per cent. leaving how-

ever still the convicted as sixty-nine per cent., of those concerned instead of forty-nine per cent.; the ratio between 1823 and 1826, being to each case 2.72 persons concerned, and 1.88 convicted, or two-thirds, against 1.34 and 0.98 in the former period.' In regard to the condition of the district in respect to crime generally, throughout the full period in question, the following comparisons strike us: the parties concerned average one thousand, nine hundred, and seventy-three against five thousand, three hundred, and fifty-one between 1823 and 1826, a reduction equal to sixty-three per cent.: but even this, great as it appears, would have been yet less, but for a vast accession of criminal parties in 1835, the three other years averaging only one thousand four hundred and thirty-seven, which would have placed the decrease at seventy-three per cent., at the same time the convictions stand as one thousand two hundred and seventy-one, against two thousand three hundred and thirty-nine, a numerical reduction of nearly forty-six per cent., this however is no criterion for judgment, which, in this respect, must rather rest with the proportions exhibited, which were in the latter period forty-three and a half per cent., and in the former sixty-four per cent.; being a most decided improvement in criminal juridicature to an extent of fully thirty-two and a half per cent. in value, and placing it at the head of the division, of which it forms above a fourth, the average of that being fifteen per cent. less, a sufficient confirmation of the remarks already set forth in the commencement of the notice respecting this district, to render further comment unnecessary.

The Twenty-four Purgunnahs,—is the next district in the course of review and excites the more attention from the fact of its immediate vicinity to Calcutta, the metropolis of the presidency, wherein most of its suburbs lie, and where therefore a greater extent of crime might naturally be expected than in more distant and not adjunct quarters; and such appears to have been the case, for it will be found in the proportion of parties concerned in criminal charges with respect to population as the worst in the whole division, being one in two hundred and thirty-three, or the full amount of one hundred and thirty-seven per cent. in excess of the average. The last year of the series however shews a decided improvement over its two predecessors, as will be seen by reference to the statement; although still very much improved from the former period of review, when it held also as one of the worst districts in this respect, the proportion having then been one in one hundred and ninety-four; an improvement

so marked as to convince all of the successful labor of the authorities conducting its police discipline.

On the comparison of the former period with 1836, the following are the results exhibited :—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	228	239
Concerned	982	303
Convictions, &c.	401	210
Offences.		
Cases	1,500	502
Concerned	3,945	2,100
Convictions, &c.	1,596	1,881

Although there would appear an advance in the cases of a heinous nature, the vast decrease in the number of the perpetrators seems remarkable; no less so the increased proportion of punishment, and the lesser amount of minor cases with increased number of convictions; to analyze these the following will appear the more immediate results of comparison with the former period. The number of heinous cases increased by five per cent., yet were perpetrated by a number of individuals less than those concerned in the smaller number of crimes, (after allowing for those in Baraset,) by fifty-two per cent!—whilst, of these fewer individuals, there appears sixty-nine per cent. were convicted, against forty and three-quarters only, from the larger number—although the numerical amount was, making the same allowance as above, thirty-five per cent. less: the general result shewing the anamolous appearance of each case being perpetrated by 1.31 with conviction of 0.87 against 4.32 and 1.77 respectively in the former period of review. The whole however as a general result shewing that more cases have been ferretted out, but that the exertion and judicious surveillance of the juridical head of the district had kept those disposed to crime in greater restraint, and secured a proportion equal to not less that sixty-eight per cent. more in the number on whom a just punishment for their acts was visited: an exhibition of exertion, and management, far more useful than what has appeared in some few other districts, in which has been pointed out a frittering away of time on lesser matters, which have in this, probably with

justice, not attracted so much of attention as to multiply the total appearance, as judged of by the number of cases alone, make a great shew in black and white, but of little utility to the substantial welfare of the inhabitants. Yet even in minor cases the result has been eminently favorable, as the following summary will shew, the cases having decreased sixty-six per cent.; so large a proportion leading almost naturally to the inference that the vigilance and decision of the magistrate deterred parties from bringing before him trivial, or spiteful cases, so burdensome in general to the file of the Police court, whilst in the perpetrators there was a falling of in the parties concerned, equal to forty-six per cent., but in convictions an *increase* of nearly eighteen per cent., so that the number of those convicted amounts to the enormous per centage of eighty-nine and a half, or nearly nine-tenths of those engaged in these offences; but the inference suggested is more markedly borne out in the proportions appearing in this year to the cases, as respects parties concerned, these being 4.18 to each and of the convicted 3 74; against, in the former period, 2.63 and 2.06 respectively, fully shewing that where cases were brought forward they must have been fully investigated, and a due meed of punishment awarded, to the securing peace, tranquillity, and good order in the district.

The general state of crime during the period of 4 years becomes next the subject of review; it is much to be regretted however that we have not this more in detail, especially as to make the comparison Baraset must be included, as it was in the former period under one jurisdiction, although allowed for in the statement of the year 1836 just concluded. The amount of offenders was in the former four years four thousand nine hundred and twenty-six, and in the present four thousand two hundred and one; it is evident therefore, these have decreased to the extent of eleven and three quarters per cent.; but a general gradual improvement is apparent in each year of the series, varying from four thousand eight hundred and forty-two in 1833, to, it is assumed, only three thousand five hundred and fifty-two in 1836, and equal to a reduction of nearly twenty-seven per cent.. which from its progressive character, evidently was not the effect of accident. In respect to convictions these had been two thousand two hundred and ninety against one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven, so that there had been a palpable improvement in this branch also to the extent of nearly fifteen per cent., and in this also there had been as progressive an increase as a decrease in the number of offenders between 1833 and 1836, amounting to fully thirty per

cent., so that numerically even the last year of the series was thirty-three per cent., above the average; to take the proportion however to the offenders it will be found that on the average fifty-four per cent. had suffered the penalty of their acts, against forty and a half in the former period, having, during the four years, risen from thirty-eight per cent., in 1833, to above seventy-four per cent. in 1836, the former twenty-two per cent. below, and the latter fifty-one per cent. above the average of the Division, the whole making the four years' out turn in excess thereof some ten per cent., fully bearing out the character, before adverted to, as being the result of individual exertions on the part of the magistrate, were any doubt possible on that point.

JESSORE.—How contrary to the last zillah reviewed is the present; the proportion of offenders having advanced from one in three hundred and fifty-seven inhabitants to one in two hundred and fifty-four; this however chiefly arises from an extraordinary accession of crime in 1833, when the proportion went to one in one hundred and eighty-nine; in no year however of the series had it attained any thing like that of the period of previous review.

In regard to the one year of full comparison (1836) the following appears to have been the state of things:—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	182	109
Concerned	1,189	498
Convictions, &c.	194	340
Offences.		
Cases	829	668
Concerned	2,123	2,118
Convictions, &c.	692	1,176

This district, like its predecessor, shews a great improvement, as regards the suppression of crime; for cases and their perpetrators have decreased most materially, whilst convictions have increased to a most unusual extent; confirming fully what has been already observed on the subject of improvement in official vigilance directed to the greater evils, and wants of the inhabitants, especially as this appearance of exertion is by no means so conspicuous in lesser offences. The number of heinous cases appears by this statement, to have sunk

forty per cent, whilst that of the parties concerned had experienced a reduction equal to fifty eight per cent; convictions having at the same time advanced in numerical comparison above seventy-five per cent., forming more than sixty eight per cent. of the parties concerned, against only sixteen and a third in the former period; but, the most prominent evidence of the extent of this improvement is exhibited in the proportion of these to the number of cases being now 3.12 convicted out of 4.57 concerned, against 1.07 and 6.57. It is worthy of remark that, as in the former period, the great numbers concerned in each case would lead to the conclusion that serious affrays, and fights by latteeals, were of very frequent occurrence, so the vast increase of convictions, accompanied by a falling off in the number of parties concerned, would shew that vigorous measures being adopted, had led to a reduction in such disturbances. Turning to offences it will be found that the decrease in number of cases was less apparent, amounting however to nineteen and a half per cent., whilst those concerned were as nearly as possible alike in amount, convictions having numerically increased some nearly seventy per cent: or some fifty-five per cent, of those concerned against thirty-two and a half in the former period. In respect, however, to the proportion of those two, to the number of cases, this statement exhibits to each 3.17 as concerned, and 1.76 convicted; against 2.56 and 0.84 respectively between 1823 and 1826.

In the general summary of the state of crime during the four years the following have been the results: the number of offenders in the present period having been on the average three thousand five hundred and eighteen, and in the former period three thousand three hundred and twelve, it follows that these have increased six per cent., not much certainly, but more than might have been expected from the evident vigor exerted in suppression of crime; it may however be most probably accounted for in that being directed chiefly against crimes, to the neglect of more trifling matters—it will, however, be observed more particularly that a great decrease was in the last year of the series, when the offenders were forty-four per cent., less in number than in 1833. At the same time, however, convictions increased to an extent of nearly sixty-eight per cent, being forty-two per cent of the number concerned, against nearly twenty-seven per cent., in the former period, but in 1836 the proportion had been as high as fifty-five per cent., or six above the average of the Division, whereas the average, from the bad state of the previous year's return, was seven per cent., below

the Division rate; thus fully bearing out the improving condition of the district, under the magistrate last in charge.

NUDDEEA.—In respect to the proportion of offenders to the population would appear to have receded some thirteen per cent. or so, on the average of the four years, having been one in five hundred and sixteen in lieu of one in five hundred and ninety-four, this however has almost entirely arisen during the last two years of the series when the ratio reached one in three hundred and fifty-seven when in the two years previous it was one in nine hundred and thirty-two, thus removing the classification of the district very considerably lower in the Division at the ratio, during a very short period: and shewing a difference between the successive two years of sixty-one per cent.

The one year of full comparison (1836) shews the following result :—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	220	253
Concerned	1,190	442
Convictions, &c.	361	220
Offences.		
Cases	393	417
Concerned	811	1,839
Convictions, &c.	321	985

It would almost appear that throughout all the districts in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, there has been a determination if not to decrease the numerical amount of crime, at least to lessen the number of its perpetrators, for here we find an increase of heinous cases equal to thirteen per cent., at the same time that the parties concerned had fallen off full sixty-three per cent., a state of things highly conducive to the tranquillity of the district; at the same time, however, a subject of regret presents itself in the small number of the convictions, being a depreciation equal to nearly thirty-nine per cent., although it must not be lost sight of, that even the small number of two hundred and twenty affords a proportion, to the offenders, of very nearly fifty per cent., against not thirty-one in the former period, the ratio to each case having been 1.74 and 0.87 respectively against 5.40 and 1.64 in the former period. In regard to lighter offences these appear in every respect to

have experienced a vast increase, in number of cases this advance amounting to only six per cent. but in parties concerned having been fully one hundred and twenty-six per cent. and in number of convictions to two hundred and seven in all to each case 4.41 as concerned, and 2.36 convicted, against 2.06 and 0.81 —being above fifty-three per cent. of those concerned.

This brings us to the general view of offenders and convictions, during the four years, or rather under their average, in the first there appears a decided improvement, the parties concerned having been one thousand six hundred and twenty-one, against two thousand in the former period—a reduction of very nearly nineteen per cent. or twenty-six below the average of all the Division, nor would this number have been so great but for the great accession of criminals in the last year of the series, surpassing the average by very nearly forty-one per cent. and the first, or 1833, by almost two hundred and ten per cent., whilst on the other hand in convictions the numerical amount had averaged five hundred and eighty against six hundred and eighty-two, a falling off equal to fifteen per cent. leaving the proportion at nearly thirty-six per cent. against twenty-seven in the former period, and thirteen below the average of the Division; this appears, however, principally to have arisen by the reduced number of those convicted in 1835 amounting to a ratio of only fourteen and a half per cent. which if omitted would leave the average of the other three years at forty-eight and a quarter per cent. and therefore very nearly approaching to the divisional average.

Midnapore,—Exhibits itself as one of the better class of districts, the ratio standing at one offender to six hundred seventy-four inhabitants, and in 1834 and 1835 the better show of one in seven hundred and fifty-eight, this however would apparently show a great increase amongst criminals, as in the former period there had only been one in one thousand five hundred and two; or more probably it should, as will in some measure be hereafter shewn, assure the public that greater vigilance, under a more settled rule had caused the detection, and apprehension of a greater number of offenders.

Reviewing the one year (1836) of full comparison as afforded by the Government reports, the following appears to be the result, although not easily carried out, on account of some changes in the extent of the jurisdiction and subdivisions of the districts in this as well as the Cuttack Zillah:—

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	180	358
Concerned	498	787
Convictions, &c.	180	419
Offences.		
Cases	351	553
Concerned	776	1,277
Convictions, &c.	314	692

It would appear from this, that the condition of this district had rather receded, it must not, however, be too readily supposed that this is really the case, as it is capable of another construction, as has been before remarked, in the exercise of greater vigilance on the part of the authorities, aided by a newly introduced system of Government to assist them; whereto, most probably, is attributable the large increase of cases of a serious character, to the extent of ninety-nine per cent. and of those concerned to an amount of fifty-eight per cent., the more confirmed, however, by the number of convictions having been one hundred and thirty-two per cent. in advance of what it was in the former period. The proportion of these to the offenders having been very nearly fifty-seven per cent. against thirty-six per cent. at that time, leaving the proportion to each case of parties concerned, having been 2.19 and of convicted 1.17, against 2.76 and 1.00 respectively. Coming to offences the result was nearly the same, the cases having increased by fifty-seven per cent., and in their perpetrators sixty-four per cent, with increased convictions to the great extent of one hundred per cent. their proportion to the parties concerned of fifty-four per cent. against forty in the former four years, these two being to the cases as 2.31 and 1.07, against 2.38 and 0.89 in the former period.

The general view of every description of police cases, so far as the returns enable a judgment to be formed, exhibit in the number of parties concerned in such cases, on the average two thousand and twenty-three, against one thousand two hundred and seventy-four, being an increase equal to nearly fifty-nine per cent.; whilst, on these, convictions were fifty-three per cent. or in number one hundred and nineteen above the last period of review, when the proportion was

thirty-nine per cent—being ten per cent. above the average of the Division, although somewhat below that in the number of those concerned.

NORTH AND SOUTH CUTTACK.—Is the last of the Division, and below the average in proportion of crime having been one offender in six hundred and sixty-eight of the inhabitants, this, however, is seventeen per cent. below what had been the case in the former period of review ;—probably however arising from the same causes as in the last district.

In respect to 1836, as compared in detail with the former period of four years, the following appears to have been the state of the case:

	Annual Average, 1823 to 1826.	1836.
Heinous Crimes.		
Cases	1,002	1,651
Concerned	1,920	1,251
Convictions, &c.	622	553
Offences.		
Cases	861	1,133
Concerned	1,558	1,863
Convictions, &c.	423	996

Here appears a considerable increase in cases, with decrease in the number both of the perpetrators, and the convicted ; but this has already been in some measure accounted for, and therefore it becomes only requisite to go into the details without further comment, except to observe that not frequently, the same guilty persons must have committed many crimes, these shewing an advance equal to twenty-four and four-fifths per cent., whilst in the parties concerned in them there was a falling off equal, to nearly thirty-five per cent. indicating decrease in gang robberies, the convictions however having decreased by eleven per cent. in numerical extent, bearing a proportion, however, to the offenders of above forty-four per cent. against little more than thirty-two per cent. in the former period, when the average to each case was of offenders 1.91 and convictions 0.62; but in this year 1826 the former had been only 0.76, and the latter but 0.34, equal to however nearly three-fifths, against somewhat under two-fifths, so that there was clearly indicated improvement in judicial enquiry, whatever there might be deficient elsewhere, whence perhaps also the increase in cases, none having been brought to light. In offences too, appears a marked increase, especially in the

number of cases, to an extent exceeding those of the former description, having been thirty-one per cent. although in parties concerned only nineteen per cent.; the convictions, in numerical amount, having advanced one hundred and thirty-five per cent, or in proportion to the offenders eighty-seven per cent., against only twenty-seven in the former period;—the proportion to each of the cases appearing 1.65 offenders, of whom had been convicted 0.88; against 1.88 and 0.49 in the former period.

The course of events brings observation next to the general consideration of the averages during these four years, when the parties concerned appear to have been annually two thousand nine hundred and seventy-one, against three thousand four hundred and seventy-eight, as shewing by the statement of falling off in this respect of nearly fifteen per cent. chiefly, however, in the years 1834 and 1835; convictions holding the average of one thousand five hundred and sixty-four, and having been tolerably even throughout the four years, and exceeding that of the former series by above forty-nine per cent.; herein also exhibiting a greater degree of vigilance, which brings to conviction nearly fifty-three per cent. instead of forty-one per cent., and places the district well in this respect as being almost four above the rate of the Division.

CHAPTER X.

Summary of Crimes, &c. in the sixteen districts, forming the South-eastern Division of the Bengal Presidency.

The detail of these several districts having been individually reviewed throughout the Second division of the Presidency, it becomes incumbent on the reader to take into consideration the total of that portion of the work, and its comparative appearance as regards the former years of average, &c. This being shewn in the following table:—

	Extent.			Crimes.			Offences.			Total.			Proportion of offenders to Population being *one* in
	Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	
Second Divn.													
1833 ..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	.	34,998	16,053	554
1834 ..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31,232	16,299	621
1835 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37,860	18,043	517
1836 ..	..	..	..	4,529	9,702	4,588	11,253	26,069	14,541	15,782	36,086	19,165	537
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,40,176	69,560	.
Average	1,01,343	19,393,372	191.36	4,529	9,702	4,588	11,253	26,069	14,541	15,782	35,044	17,390	553

To this Division the same observations apply as have already been made with reference to the first Division at page 105, in so far as regards the paucity

of information for the period of four years, having only been perfected in the public reports for one of them, or 1836, and in this the difference in the source of report exhibits in the one peculiar to that year than hundred and fifteen less in the total parties concerned, and thirty-six in the convictions.

In this Division, like its predecessor, the lapse of years, and the changes incidental thereto, had resulted in an increase, although trifling in extent, of the area of jurisdiction; being, however, not more than equal to eleven and a half per cent. The population in the mean time, had continued nearly at a stand, without variation even to the extent of one per cent. whereby the ratio of population would appear to have fallen from 215.24 to 191.36 per square mile, or in the proportion of eleven per cent.

Without adverting to these differences of extent and of population, a marked decrease appears in the number of parties guilty of offences against the public peace and welfare, to the extent of some full twenty-four per cent. reducing the ratio throughout the Division from one in four hundred and ten inhabitants, to one in five hundred and fifty-three; a state of things, which the review so lately passed through in detail must satisfy the reader, has been the result of increased and well-directed vigilance on the part of the majority of the public officers; to whom, in justice, this distinguished improvement, it must be confessed, these advantages, and all their benefit to the public, must be attributed, albeit not over-disposed to accord praise in such quarters unless when fairly earned. A remarkable coincidence appears between the two periods of review, in the fact that, in both of them the two latter years were the two worst in the proportion of crime to the inhabitants, for whereas in 1823 and 1824 this averaged one in four hundred and sixty-one, in 1825 and 1826 it reached one in three hundred and seventy-two; so in 1833 and 1834 it was one in five hundred and eighty-eight, reaching in 1835 and 1836 one in five hundred and twenty-seven: the difference, in the former period, being seventeen per cent.; and in the latter ten per cent—the actual average difference between the two series of four years each appearing as nearly thirty-five per cent.

As was before pointed out in reviewing the first Division, it is very much to be regretted that the means of fair and complete comparison are denied in the absence of a continuous distinction of cases, crimes, and offences; these being limited to one year, that of 1836, the review, therefore, in those respects must be confined to that one year, the generalization of the four years being

confined to the total of parties concerned and convicted. Taking this, however, as the medium of comparison, it appears that in the number of heinous cases brought forward, there had been an increase. The term, "brought forward," being used as in contradistinction to "cases occurring," in the firm belief that there being little, or perhaps no increase in the actual number of cases, but rather in those noticed by an increased vigilance in the authorities: by those means, however, an evident increase appears in this respect equal to ten and a half per cent. At the same time however that this appears in the number of cases, it is not less worthy of remark that the parties concerned had greatly decreased in number, leading to a fair conclusion that gang robberies had decreased to an extent equal to no less than thirty-two per cent., or nearly one-third, a state of things which more than any thing marks improvement. On these too, the proportion of convictions also exhibits some advance, having been *numerically* however rather on the decline, to the extent of five per cent.; but *proportionate-ly* forty-seven per cent. of the parties concerned, against only thirty-four in the previous period of review. At the same time the proportion to the cases was 1.01 against 1.16 in the former period, of crimes perpetrated by 2.14 to each, in lieu of 3.45 between 1823 and 1826.

Offences are the next subject of review, and in the number of such cases there would appear a falling off, of twenty-three per cent.; so also in the number of parties concerned, which fell fully more than twenty-one per cent.; whilst on the other hand actual convictions had brought down the hardihood of those concerned, by, even in numbers, shewing a great advance to the extent of at least ten and a half per cent. The propertion however of this branch of the subject requires minute attention, because by this only can it be expected that results could be shown; this was then in the only year of which there remain data to the parties concerned, very nearly fifty-five and three quarters per cent., or a total annually of fourteen thousand five hundred and forty-one out of twenty-six thousand and sixty-nine, against thirty-nine per cent., or thirteen thousand one hundred and twenty-four out of thirty-three thousand two hundred and ninety-three. This would be then 1.29 to each case, against 0.89 in the former period, whilst the parties concerned in each were 2.31 against 2.27, or nearly equal. It is however greatly to be regretted that there are no data for these comparisons fully to be carried out, except in one year of the period, and that the last. Yet following out the state of the cases so far, it will be found that in respect to

cases, those of a heinous nature has a proportion to the whole, equal to twenty-eight and a half per cent., whilst in the former period it was as twenty-two per cent., a larger proportion certainly; but it still remains for consideration whether this is not rather the result of increased vigilance in detection, than any actual increase of crime, especially as this is but a trifle per cent. below the ratio in the first Division. Viewing the total statement in this way, and carrying the same criminal proportions throughout, in parties concerned, heinous offences bear the proportion of twenty-seven and a half per cent., against thirty per cent. in the former period, and thirty-four per cent. in the first Division, which would accord rather a favorable character to this one. The numerical proportion of convictions however in this Division in spite of the peculiar exertions evident, as shewn in some particular districts, had been unfavorable, exhibiting only twenty-six per cent. out of the whole as for heinous offences, whilst in the former period they had reached nearly twenty-seven per cent. and in the first Division almost thirty-four per cent.

Nevertheless, to form a fair criterion, no less of results, than of comparisons, the whole, and not the parts, must be made the chief source of review, and it is needless repeating here, what has been so often remarked, as to the unity of the comparison with reference to cases, which exhibit fifteen thousand seven hundred and eighty-two; against the average of eighteen thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight in the period between 1823 and 1826, equal to a falling off of sixteen per cent. a more moderate, and perhaps better to be depended upon, reduction than that already shewn in the first Division, especially as this Division comprehends several decidedly bad Districts.

With more confidence however the list of offenders may be turned to with regard to a comparative review, this shews as the average of parties concerned some thirty-five thousand and forty-four; against in the former period, forty-seven thousand six hundred and nineteen, amounting to a reduction of twenty-eight and a half per cent.; the year of least amount, 1834, having been nearly eleven per cent. below this average, and the following year 1835 of greatest excess, shewing some seven and a half above it: whilst it would be nearly eleven per cent. above the number of offenders in the first Division. This on the imperfect data available would appear to give 2.22 to each case against 2.94 in the former period of review, and 2.41 in the first Division so far showing a fair improvement in this respect.

So also in respect to convictions, which it will be observed, have progressively increased from the first to the last year of the period to an extent equal to nineteen per cent. a state of advancement far preferable to the steady unvaried standard of the first Division, although, as indeed could hardly be expected, less satisfactory that the advance in this Division of forty-eight per cent. in the former period. This part of the subject however is best examined through the proportion of those convicted to these concerned, and which during each term appears to have been, in

1833..............	forty-six per cent.
1834..............	fifty-two per cent.
1835..............	forty-seven and a half per cent.
1836..............	fifty-three per cent.

against, in the former period;

1823 } 1824 }.............	thirty-eight per cent.
1825......	thirty-three and three quarters per cent.
1826..............	nearly forty-one and a quarter per cent.

a tolerably conclusive evidence of improvement at the close of ten years, even were others wanting, which it has been shewn there are not. The average of the period having been forty-nine and a half per cent., securing just deserts to very nearly half those who offended; the average of the former four years having been not quite thirty-eight per cent., or 0.95 to each case, whereas this last during the time from 1833 to 1836 was 1.10, whilst the ratio of this division exceeded that of the first by nearly four per cent.

To close this review, it will be observed, that in number of cases crimes have a proportion of nearly twenty-nine per cent. and in those concerned twenty-seven and a half per cent.; against twenty-two and thirty per cent. respectively: a certain indication, as has been before remarked in the details of this review, that crimes requiring large gangs were on the decrease; at the same time shewing also that this Division bore a better character in this respect than the first, even although the ratio as regards convictions was somewhat less. The convictions for crimes bearing a proportion of twenty-six per cent. against nearly twenty-seven in the former period, so that in this respect matters, favorable in general, as regards the vigilance of the authorities, and general control of crime would appear in this respect to have been nearly at a stand, and lower than in the first Division.

The last point of consideration, with reference to the sixteen zillahs forming this Division, is the proportion of work performed by the Magistrates, which, on the average, would appear to have been nine hundred and eighty-six cases to each. This, at the proportion of days heretofore adopted for work to be performed, would give 3.41 instead of four and one-third for each day's work, the parties to which would have been two and one-third each, so that the entire examinations to be daily gone through must have been some twenty-four daily, besides reports, &c.;—a reduction of some thirty-seven per cent. from the labors of the local officers.

CHAPTER XI.

General Summary of the Bengal Presidency, with a comparison in respect to the state of crime with other countries.

	Extent.			Crimes.			Offences.			Total.			Proportion of offenders to Population being *one* in
	Square miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convictions, &c.	
1833 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68,598	30,733	566
1834 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64,693	31,379	594
1835 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66,756	32,049	581
1836 ..	..	..	..	9,149	20,504	9,567	19,656	45,127	23,978	28,805	65,626	33,984	591
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,65,673	128,145	..
Average	1,74,854	38,817,874	222.00	9,149	20,504	9,567	19,656	45,127	23,978	28,805	66,418	32,036	584

The main spring of comparison in crime remains for the general summary to bring into action, as although the want of integrity of reports from individual districts, too well known to be both carelessly and inaccurately prepared,—often purposely misrepresented by the officers employed to collect the information required,—often erroneous from a misunderstanding of the object of the report called for,—and still more often made incorrect by a reckless indifference as to the result. Yet the under reports from one part, and the excess

in others are equalized when they come to be brought together in a general aggregate, which therefore, inaccurate as it doubtless would be found in every detail, becomes by the admixture a tolerably near approach to truth.

In considering this second period of review of crime, some facts are necessary to be borne in mind, which though little apparently affecting the general results, deserve some weight; however little the direct attention given to them in the comparison of crime, and criminals generally, taken under view. The first of these is the zillah changes that had taken place between the one period, and the other, in respect to actual extent of jurisdiction, which in the first four years amounted to 154,453 square miles, but which had, in this second four years, been increased not less than thirteen per cent.; whilst the population, held under the same control, had advanced in the considerably less ratio of five per cent. This reduced the proportion of inhabitants from 239.03 to 222.00 per square mile, or seven per cent., not an unfavorable change, however, so far as the theory already observed on, of the greater the density of population, the greater the liabilities, and encouragement to crime; so that whilst on the one hand the increased extent of country, and of population may lead to an expectation of increased crime in the present period, this may, in some measure at least, be expected to find a counteracting effect in the greater dispersion, or spread of that population.

To proceed at once however *in medias res*, one observation strikes the observer as an improvement of some consequence in this present period; and this is, that instead of having to regret a steady increase, from year to year of the four reviewed, in the proportion of crime to the inhabitants, the reverse will be found in the four years now before us; which, with the exception of a more than ordinary retrograding stride in 1834, may be considered to have made progressive steps to improvement, the difference of proportion between 1833 and 1836 having been the favorable one of four and a half per cent. The difference between the two periods was, on the average, fifty-five per cent. in favor of the latter one, when it was one in five hundred and eighty-four out of a population of thirty-eight millions, eight hundred and seventeen thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, against one in three hundred and seventy-six out of thirty-six millions, nine hundred and eighteen thousand seven hundred and sixty-five souls; or, in clearer words, perhaps, 0.265 per cent. in the latter on the amount of population, and 0.171 per cent. in the former, a rather favorable difference to say the least, so far at least, as this

part of the subject goes, maintaining fully the generalar chacter already shewn in the preceding details.

Another series of reports to Government, in which are given the annual totals during the four years from 1833 to 1836, differing but little, in most particulars, from these whence the foregoing details have been derived, affords a more full opportunity of comparison, with, it is believed, great correctness of amount, and from these the following statement has been framed as a guide to future remarks:—

	Crimes.					Offences, &c.			Total.		
	Cases.			Concerned.	Convicted, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convicted, &c.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convicted, &c.
	Against the person.	Against property.	Total.								
1833	.....	....	....	33,113	13,590	....	35,956	16,172	....	69,069	29,762
1834......	......	....	....	24,522	12,318	....	37,753	18,523	....	62,275	30,841
1835......	1,634	14,310	15,944	21,122	9,503	23,804	46,174	22,631	39,748	67,296	32,134
1836......	940	13,702	14,642	18,529	9,123	24,057	46,684	25,514	38,699	65,213	34,637
Total...	2,574*	28,012*	30,586*	97,286	44,534	47,861*	1,66,567	82,840	78,447*	2,63,853	1,27,374
Average..	1,287	14,006	15,293	24,321	11,133	23,930	41,642	20,710	39,223	65,963	31,843

Of the above, although in every year there has not been a clear distinction of cases, or indeed in most years any list at all of them; these abstracts possess the advantage of affording a distinction in the number of those concerned in crimes, as regards their being against the person, or against property as follows:—

	Concerned.				*Convicted, &c.*		
	Against the person.	Against property.	Total.		Against the person.	Against property.	Total.
1833..................	19,806	13,307	33,113	=	7,851	5,739	13,590
1834..................	12,258	12,264	24,522	=	6,417	5,901	12,318
1835..................	8,924	12,198	21,122	=	3,929	5,574	9,503
1836..................	7,014	11,515	18,529	=	3,355	5,768	9,123
Total	48,002	49,284	97,286	=	21,552	22,982	44,534
Average	12,000	12,321	24,321	=	5,388	5,745	11,133

* Two years.

It may not be out of place here also to note that, of the above abstract of crimes, the following more remarkable and heinous ones had borne these respective amounts:—

		Cases.	Concerned.	Convicted, &c.	
Thuggee	1833	unknown.	8	6	75 per cent. convicted.
	1834	ditto.	35	26	74 ditto ditto.
	1835	ditto.	32	17	53 ditto ditto.
	1836	ditto.	72	7	9½ ditto ditto.
Total....		....	147	56	
Average....		....	37	14	
Dakoitee	1833	unknown.	4,801	1,513	32 per cent. convicted.
	1834	ditto.	3,877	1,403	36 ditto ditto.
	1835	259	3,177	906	28½ ditto ditto.
	1836	204	2,313	823	35½ ditto ditto.
Total....		463	14,168	4,645	
Average....		231	3,542	1,161	
River Dakoitee	1833	unknown.	unknown.	unknown.	
	1834	ditto.	53	22	41½ per cent. convicted.
	1835	13	84	28	33 ditto ditto.
	1836	4	71	29	41 ditto ditto.
Total....		17	208	79	
Average......		8	69	26	

The irregularity of ratio in the convictions for these serious crimes is perhaps the most remarkable feature of the statement shewn, at the same time in the crime of Dakoitees, in its two branches, so far as the two years recorded allows of comparison, the average proportion to each case appears considerable. That most extraordinary, and most heinous crime of Thuggee can never be expected to offer any regularity of progression, either in its increase or decrease, depending as it does, on so many contingencies that may from time to time arise to add to, or to lessen its extent; often guided solely by the caprices or improvidence of its followers, the variation therefore from eight to seventy-two cases in four years cannot therefore strike the observer as extraordinary; the ratio however of convictions may be considered fair, averaging as it does nearly

thirty-eight per cent. and does credit to the officers of the department, especially as during the period in question, its suppression had advanced so far. In Dakoitees the ratio of conviction is almost progressive, the highest ratio being thirty-six per cent., and the lowest twenty-eight and a half, the average being close upon thirty-three per cent., or one-third of the alledged perpetrators, the ratio to each case holding as 27.02 concerned, and 8.86 convicted; whilst river Dakoitees were very nearly at a stand, during the three years of which data are procurable, shewing the favorable average of thirty-seven and two-thirds per cent. convicted, and bearing the proportion to the cases of 8.62 concerned, and 3.25 convicted. In these we have clear evidence of exertion, and successful employment of useful energies on the part of the authorities towards the suppression of a crime oppressive to the public, and most injurious to the peace and welfare of the country.

To return however to the more general review of crime, as shewn in the statement now adopted, although it is much to be regretted that even this only gives the number of cases during two years, and those the last of the series. In respect to crimes against the person, there would appear a general advance in comparison with what are recorded in the previous period of review, and of these in 1835 two hundred and forty-six were cases of murder, whilst in that year three hundred and fifty-four assaults occurring in affrays, which contributed three hundred and eighty-six to the list of crimes in the following year. One good feature however is observable, viz. that between the two years of report there had been a falling off of forty-two and a half per cent. in this class of crimes, as regards cases, though this will be found trifling, as compared with the progressive steps taken towards reform evidenced in the great reduction of the number of those concerned in such criminal acts during the period of review; and amounting, between 1833 and 1836, to no less than sixty-four per cent., and this in the following progressive order of reduction:—

1834	Thirty-eight per cent. less in number than 1833.			
1835	Twenty-seven	ditto	ditto	than 1834.
1836	Twenty-one	ditto	ditto	than 1835.

The average however of such cases appears to have been *twelve thousand* individuals as concerned in one thousand and eighty-seven cases, which last is one hundred and fourteen per cent. above that of the previous period of

review, and can only be accounted for by assuming, not that there has been actually that increase, for it is well known that affrays, and some other crimes against the person, wherein numbers are generally engaged, had much declined, in consequence of a better definition of boundaries having become prevalent, and an alteration in the system of indigo cultivation leading to a more peaceful arrangement of disputes; to a more vigilant prosecution of such cases, therefore, there is no doubt this increase must owe its rise, and this is confirmed by the gradual falling off at close of the period, leading to a conclusion that this increased activity had met its natural effect, in an actual decrease of such crimes.

Other crimes, against property too, bear the same appearance of increase, and average fourteen thousand and six, which is some thirty-one per cent. above the number of such cases between 1823 and 1826; but here too is observable a decrease of about four and a half per cent. which, trifling as it is, yet serves to shew the favorable turn that the juridical Government of the presidency had assumed; especially when taken in comparison with the regularly progressive falling off in the number of parties concerned in such crimes, which is sufficiently marked, although not nearly approaching the improving extent already shewn in respect to those concerned in more heinous crimes, these last ranging only as follows :—

1834..............	Eight per cent. less in number than 1833.
1835..............	About one half ditto ditto than 1834.
1836..............	Nearly eight ditto ditto than 1835.

The total improving difference between 1833 and 1836 having been thirteen and a half per cent. Continuing remarks on these two descriptions of crime, it will be observable that in 1835 those concerned in each case amounted to 5.46 in cases against the person, and 0.85 in cases against property, and in 1836, 7.46 in the former and 0.84 in the latter, the average having been 9.32 engaged in personal crimes, and 0.88 in those against property.

Here too may be noticed the proportionate convictions on account of these distinct description of crimes, which ranged thus :—For crimes against the person, proportionate to those concerned, in

1833..................	Thirty-nine and three quarters per cent.
1834	Fifty-two per cent.
1835....................	Forty-four per cent.
1836....................	Forty-seven and a half per cent.

exhibiting a very fair ratio of convictions, and averaging nearly forty-five per cent. The rate of the two years whereof data are borne as respects cases having been in 1835 as 2.40 to each, and in 1836 as 3.57, the average being 4.19: whilst in crimes against property the ratio was in

1833..........................	Forty-three per cent.
1834..........................	Forty-eight per cent.
1835..........................	Forty-six per cent.
1836..........................	Fifty-one per cent.

closing with an average of forty-six and a half per cent.; a fair proportion that does much credit to the authorities for having maintained it so well, and so progressively, and which would give to each case in 1835 as 0.39 and in 1836 0.42, the average being as 0.41.

The next point of review is the extent of the offences, averaging, on the like calculation with the preceding, some twenty-three thousands nine hundred and thirty cases, being a decline of about thirty-one per cent. on the previous period of four years.

At the same time the numbers of parties concerned fell in the ratio of nearly thirty-seven per cent., and averaged forty-one thousand six hundred and forty-two; having however progressively increased throughout the term under review, and shewing in the first year some fourteen per cent. below, and in the last twelve per cent. above the average; this, however, may be looked on, as has already been observed, rather as an indication of improvement than otherwise.

This naturally brings the cause of remark to the convictions, which would evidence a numerical decrease in this branch to the extent of fully twenty-three per cent., but even here is observable a clear sign of improvement, in the fact, that, whilst in 1833 they amounted to twenty-two per cent. below the averages in 1836 they were twenty-three per cent. above, in and between the two the advance was nearly fifty-eight per cent. this latter having been forty-five per cent. of those concerned, whilst, in 1836 it was nearly fifty-five; the average having been about fifty per cent. against forty-one per cent. in the former period; and ranging to each year as follows, in the two years for which data are afforded.

1835.....................	1.93	0.95
1836.....................	1.94	1.06

The average standing to each case having been 1.74 concerned, and 0.86 convicted against 2.11, and not quite 0.82 respectively, or nearly on a par in the two periods.

As before observed, the general summary is the one most calculated to bring an estimate of improvement, or otherwise to the list; and from this it may be observed that the average of cases, of every description, may be taken at thirty-nine thousand two hundred and twenty-three, against forty-two thousand five hundred and thirty-one, being a reduction equal to not quite eight per cent., or what may be considered nearly par, especially when the difference in the population is taken into the question. Going however to the number of offenders a great falling off is found, the average of the more recent period, falling short of the more distant one by almost one third, or thirty-three per cent.; in this branch of the subject, however, no regularity either of improvement, or the contrary, can be shewn; for, whilst in 1833, the number was four and a half per cent. above the average, the following was the comparative variation of the successive years :—

1834..................	Nearly ten per cent. below	1833
1835..................	Seven and a half ditto above	1834
1836..................	Three and one fifth ditto below	1835

or to each case in 1835, 1.69; and in 1836, 1.68; the average being 1.681, against 2.34 in the former period, whilst convictions being in 1835, to each case, 0.81 and in 1836, 0.89 averaging but little above the former, fell much short of the proportion they bore to the cases in the former period, when they were 0.86. Numerically the amount of convictions were thirteen per cent. below what they were in the former period, averaging thirty-one thousand eight hundred and forty-three, but during the four years there was a progressive increase, so that whilst the first year of the series was some six and a half below this average, the cases were eight per cent. above, the difference between the two being an advance of sixteen per cent. advancing in the following ratio :—

1834........Three and three fifths above 1833
1835.... ...Four and one fifth ditto 1834
1836........Seven and four fifths ditto 1835

These were the ratio in the course of the four years to those concerned in
1833........Of Forty-three per cent.

1834........Of Forty-nine and a half per cent.
1835........ „ Forty-eight do.
1836........ „ Fifty-two do.

making an average of somewhat beyond forty-eight per cent., against thirty-seven and a half in the former period, a state of things that fully bears out all the conclusions formed as to the increased attention and vigilance of the police department during the interval of ten years, although certainly not to that extent that might have been expected under assumed advances of intelligence and good government, so much boasted of by politicians during the period in question. In fact these matters can hardly be correctly estimated until we come to figures, which often overthrow many a fine theory and prove the boldest opponent the speculator can meet with.

To close this part of the review of crime it is only necessary to add, that these statements shew crimes to have held a ratio of thirty-nine per cent. in the number of cases brought to light, against twenty-six and a half per cent. in the former term of four years; and of less in the parties concerned as might be expected, there having been nearly thirty-seven per cent. against, however, not quite thirty-three between 1823 and 1826. Whilst of those convicted or committed, &c. nearly thirty-five per cent. were for such deeds, against only twenty-six in the past period.

Here may be examined also the review of work performed by the authorities, which would appear to have averaged to each district, annually, one thousand two hundred and sixty-five cases, in which two thousand one hundred and twenty-eight individuals were charged, or nearly 1.69 to each, apparently a considerable reduction in each view of the subject from what was the extent in the former period, although not much affecting the work to be gone through especially when the better result, as regards convictions, receives due consideration, being of cases 4.39 for each day, and of offenders 7.36 making the depositions, &c. &c. to be heard, and noted down, after the calculation already assumed at page 37, equal to thirty-two, besides reports, *sooruthals*, &c.; being, however, so far satisfactory, that it is a reduction of one-third on the labor of the former period, although it was in 1836 still acknowledged that magisterial officers of every grade were overworked; as, were other proof wanting, this statement must attest, for how few men, even if relieved by an assistant, can efficiently fulfil such labor as is here shewn for the daily work of an Indian magistrate,

Completing this locally comparative review of crime, our consideration is naturally led to a comparison of its ratio and condition, in Bengal, as brought into juxta position with the state of other countries in this respect; the first refered to being our own mother country, of which the following crimes are in the reports for 1833 to 1835 in England and Wales, or for three years out of the four of comparison :—

Years.	Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the Population.	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.		Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders *one* in	Convicted *one* in
1833.				20,072	1,761	11,707	980	14,448	692	962
1834.				22,451	3,245	11,441	1,309	15,995	619	869
1835.				20,731	2,862	6,043	1,164	10,069	668	1,390
Total.				63,254	7,868	29,191	3,453	40,512		
Average.	57,066	13,897,13[illegible]	243.53	21,085	2,623	9,730	1,151	13,504	659	1,029

The next with which comparison is available is poor disturbed, and partly hence distressed, though just now visited by suffering also from the hand of the Almighty,—Ireland: of which the following appears for the years above noted :—

Years.	Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the Population.	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.		Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders *one* in	Convicted *one* in
1833....	......	....	....	17,819	6,729	2,044	2,671	11,444	446	694
1834....	....	....	....	21,381	6,021	3,573	4,659	14,253	371	506
1835....	......	....	....	21,205	6,050	3,955	5,211	15,216	327	522
Total..	....	....	....	60,405	18,800	9,572	12,541	40,913	....	....
Average..	30,000	7,943,940	231.46	20,135	6,266	3,191	4,181	13,638	395	582

For this period Scotland is added, but it is to be regretted that particulars of the convictions are still wanting:—

Years.	Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the Population	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.		Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders *one* in	Convicted *one* in
1833....	....	....	....	2,564	....	....	.. ..	1,796	918	1,316
1834....	....	....	....	2,711	....	....	....	1,790	872	1,321
1835....	....	....	....	2,838	....	....	....	1,902	833	1,243
Total..	....	....	....	8,113	....	....	....	5,488	....	....
Average..	32,161	2,365,114	73.54	2,704	....	....	....	1,829	875	1,294

The next is France, of which however, data are available for only two years of the series, but, as was before observed, there appears such an uniformity of crime from year to year in that country, save only on the intervention of political commotions, that this deficiency is of the less consequence:—

Years.	Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the Population	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.		Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders *one* in	Convicted *one* in
1833....	....	....	....	166,704*	958	3,147	53,247	57,352	195	507
1834....	....	....	....	178,098†	1,006	3,158	44,645	48,809	182	666
Total..	....	....	....	344,802	1,964	6,305	97,892	106,161	....	....
Average..	205,000	32,509,742	158.58	172,401	982	3,153	48,946	53,081	188	612

In the above "Persons charged" are included all the petty police cases of misdemeanors, &c. which in that country are even more numerous than here,

* 6,964 only for crimes. † 6,952 only for crimes.

and of which two-thirds are acquitted, or discharged, as is admitted, although no actual figured report is given of those convicted, and punished for such offences, generally for periods of less than one year's imprisonment, and it has been entered under that assumption in the French report on the administration of criminal justice for the two years under review. The Police magistrates or "*juges du paix*" are in France very numerous, the salaries being in the interior generally so low as to be little more than nominal, except when these duties are combined with others of a municipal character; and the reader may well exclaim they had need be numerous to get through such a host of petty charges, which on the average of our over-worked magistracy would alone require thirteen thousand and fifty-two magisterial officers, allowing for holidays, only on the same scale as in Bengal, whereas these last must be more numerous, there, from the number of *fêtes* and Saints' days occurring. This small scale of income pervades all classes, and no doubt tends to produce that reduced scale of population, as proportioned to the extent of country, that is observable, many of the landed proprietors in the provinces being worse off in point of means than our English laborers.

The same reasons that are before stated at page 79, continue to deprive this review of any comparison with the state of crimes in other countries, and therefore the next statement will exhibit a fair contrast of what data have been available, on which only a few comments will be offered:—

Countries.	Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the Population.				Proportion of convictions to charges *one* in
	Square miles.	Population.	Population per Square mile.		Crimes.	Offences.	Total.	Proportion of crimes to offences.	Offenders charged *one* in	Convicted.			
										For crimes *one* in	For offences *one* in	Total *one* in	
Bengal	174,854	38,817,874	222.00	65,963	11,133	20,710	31,843	54 p. cent.	589	3,486	1,874	1,219	0.483
England and Wales	57,066	13,897,137	243.53	21,085	12,353	1,151	13,504	1.073	659	1,125	12,074	1,029	0.640
Ireland	30,000	7,943,940	231.46	20,135	9,457	4,181	13,638	226	395	840	1,900	582	0.677
Scotland	32,161	2,365,114	73.54	2,704	......	......	1,829	....	875	......	......	1,294	0.676
France	205,000	32,509,742	158.58	172,401	4,135	48,946	53,081	8 $\frac{2}{5}$ths	188	7,860	664	612	0.308

It is not the object of this work to comment on the state of crime in other countries, save so far as regards the comparative condition of Bengal, on these the statements might afford subject for deep and curious reflection in their position relatively with this country,—however, it is made to stand

in rather a fair position, holding a medium with the few others, and exhibiting a considerable improvement too, as compared with what appeared from the last period of review ten years previously; for although in the aggregate the number of persons apprehended as offenders, bears as 213 per cent. more than in England and Wales, in the former period it was 225 per cent. it has to be borne in mind that its population surpasses this latter by 179 per cent. so that despite what may be urged against the inferior police, the known superiority of that in England has not been able to accomplish much more than this has done; whilst in Ireland, with a population of little more than one-fifth of Bengal, the offenders were nearly equal to one-third in number, and notwithstanding the prevalence of crimes attended with violence crimes against the person were about one-fifth less than in that unfortunate country; and also in comparison with France the offenders were not equal to one-half what they averaged then, this great excess in that country arising from the same source that so swells our list of persons charged before the police, the number of petty offences, misdemeanors, and private quarrels and disputes with which the police file is so incumbered in both countries. France surpassing Bengal however in this respect to the extent of one hundred and thirty-six. Scotland, appears in these statements, and did we not advert at the same time to the ratio of population, it would seem to be at a *minimum* in its amount of crime, but with a scattered population, only of 73.54 to the square mile, less than half what is the proportion in the acknowledgedly depreciated population of France, which in the days of Napoleon was known to have exceeded forty-five millions, or fully, notwithstanding his decimating was, 222.00 per square mile, coinciding with Bengal for the period of review: this, however, only supports what has been maintained throughout the course of this work, that the more dense the population, the greater the proportionate extent of crime; yet after all, notwithstanding that it is self-evident from the statement, imperfect as it is, as to the condition of the offenders in Scotland, that either that litigious spirit does not exist, or that the dispersion of the population prevents the almost overpowering weight of offences, so harassing to the authorities; for whilst the population of that country is only 6.07 per cent. of that of Bengal, the persons engaged in crimes were equal to 4.09 of those in this country, notwithstanding, the greater vigilance and efficiency of the police.

Thus then it is clear, that the state of Bengal in respect of crimes is not so bad as might have been expected, or has so often been declared, especially

as a comparison with the former period shews that the number of persons charged with offences had fallen off twenty-two per cent., reducing the ratio of proportion to the population from one in 376 to one in 589, a great and important improvement, chiefly, there is no doubt, arising from a greater attention to the suppression of actual crime, and a reduction of mere litigative offences. On this portion of the statements it only further remains to remark, that whilst these effects were tending to reduce the number of persons charged with crimes and offences, in England and Wales, under the vigilant and active services of a new system of police; in Ireland the same cause, assisted by increase in crimes against the person; and in France the advance in the population had been contributing to add to the numbers under this head in all the other countries with which a comparison was offered.

Not to rest too long on this part of the subject, the statement passes on to convictions, on which perhaps, a comparison is best founded: in this respect, as regards the population, France would appear to hold the first rank in reference to actual crime, this standing in the ratio as only one in 7,860, whilst Bengal exhibits less than half that proportion, England and Wales a seventh, and Ireland a little less only than a ninth. Whilst in convictions for criminal actions the following are the proportions as compared with Bengal in the aggregate :—

England and Wales	Eleven per cent. more.
Ireland	Fifteen per cent. less.
France	Sixty-three per cent. less.

When, however, the extent of population comes to be included in the account, the aspect of things is much changed, and the convictions for crime bear the greatest proportion in Ireland, holding a very considerable amount also in England and Wales, it must be recollected this may be well accounted for, in the greater vigilance of the new police in those places operating to prevent the escape of those guilty of criminal actions; in the former also on the great preponderance of crimes against the person, which formed there, a proportion to the population, as compared with Bengal and other countries noticed as follows :—

Ireland *one* in	1,108	of the inhabitants.
England and Wales *one* in	5,298	ditto.
Bengal *one* in	7,579	ditto.
France *one* in	33,106	ditto.

The very small proportion of the last of these may be easily accounted for in the scattered population, the homely quiet habits, the poverty of the residents in the provinces, and the system of *surveillant* police in the cities, towns, &c. rendering it difficult to complete, or even perpetrate a crime.

Offences, it is almost unnecessary to refer to, as under the general system of police in Great Britain, the bringing these forward is so evidently discouraged, or at least their being brought on the records, that referring to the police statements reported after the formation of the new Police in the Metropolis, even when, at its first foundation, it was the custom to notice them, perhaps with a view of shewing to the public the amount of miscellaneous cases that actually come before the Police, when they appeared to have amounted to 12 to 13,000 and upwards, increasing subsequently to somewhere about 20,000, yet it never was considered necessary, or perhaps even practicable to obtain such reports from the provinces, whence in reality there is no possibility of making any comparison with any of the three countries forming Great Britain, and the only remaining one is France, where this description of police inquiry is as much allowed, or encouraged as it is in Bengal, certainly in this respect Bengal must have the preference, being in the aggregate nearly fifty-eight per cent. in number less that what appears in France, considered independently of the difference of population which would bring it up to sixty-five per cent.

So far therefore as its comparison can be effected with respect to other countries, Bengal bears at least an equable position, rather tending to the favorable side; and in comparison with itself at the interval of ten years this is yet more conspicuous, especially in the proportion of convictions for crimes and for offences, as placed in juxta-position the one with the other, for whilst these appear as fifty-four per cent. in the present period; they were between 1823 and 1826 only as not quite thirty-six per cent. and in the same time that of convictions to charges had increased twenty-three per cent. so that the observations made occasionally, in the course of the details preceding this summary, relative to the improved state of juridical proceedings in Bengal, are fully confirmed and borne out: more attention having so clearly been proved to have been paid to the more important department of suppressing actual crime, and bringing to conviction the parties guilty of more serious injuries to the population at large, than had been previously considered necessary, leaving private and petty quarrels to settle themselves. Not however but greater improve-

ment was desirable, and even necessary to the welfare of the country, but every advance deserves notice, when it can be so completely and satisfactorily proved as the preceding statements, without any merit of their own must be allowed to have done that of the police of Bengal; whether this has been equally well effected in the following ten years will be shewn, so far as one year will exhibit it, in the next chapter, to which it isunnecessary to delay proceeding.

CHAPTER XII.

Analysis of crime in Bengal, with exception to Cuttack, during the year 1843, *as shewn in the "Report on the state of the Police," in that year.*

This report also wants that clear separation of the different classes of offenders, which marked those of the years 1823 to 1826; the following statements however, of the two divisions will enable some comparison to be made, for greater convenience of which, the districts, &c. have been arranged, as in the former statements :—

Comparative view of Crimes, &c. in the 1*st Division of Bengal, in* 1843.*

District.	Extent.			Crimes.			Offences.	Total.			Proportion of offenders to population, being *one in*
				Cases.							
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Against the person.	Against property.	Total.	Cases.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convicted, &c.	
Patna	1,960	845,790	432.03	688	1,197	1,885	912	2,797	4,660	2,326	181
Behar.......	2,120	807,924	381.09	557	1,660	2,217	626	2,843	3,102	1,785	260
Sarun& Champarun	5,035	1,432,432	284.49	1,066	2,040	3,106	631	3,737	3,435	1,929	417
Shahabad	3,956	961,924	243.15	506	951	1,457	330	1,787	2,612	1,339	368
Poorneah	7,460	1,602,932	214.85	280	444	724	271	995	1,408	869	1,138
Bhagulpore	9,600	2,000,000	208.33	370	1,129	1,499	965	2,464	3,494	2,633	572
Monghyr	4,166	866,520	207.99	842	742	1,584	458	2,042	2,324	1,805	373
Tirhoot	7,732	1,510,427	195.34	926	1,319	2,245	696	2,941	6,354	3,799	238
Dinajpore	4,136	2,298,200	554.48	546	1,229	1,775	309	2,084	1,972	778	1,165
Malda.............	3,500	431,715	123.35	477	337	814	231	1,045	1,391	404	310
Rungpore	6,570	1,214,275	184.82	367	478	845	98	943	1,696	928	716
Rajshuhaee,&Pubna	7,588	2,586,251	209.04	1,407	1,206	2,613	942	3,555	6,266	3,333	413
Bugoorah	3,968	321,000	80.39	546	1,229	1,775	309	2,084	1,244	597	258
Moorshedabad	1,870	969,447	518.42	143	741	884	2,176	3,060	2,349	951	413
Beerbhoom	3,850	1,580,665	410.56	978	611	1,589	404	1,993	2,745	1,602	576
Total....	73,511	19,424,502	250.58	9,699	15,313	25,012	9,358	34,370	45,052	25,078	431

* Abstracted from Statement G and A of the Report.

It were a needless trouble to make new chapters, either for the other division, or for the sum total of the presidency; and therefore the present period of comparison being only for the one year, 1843, this chapter will be made to comprehend all that it is necessary to say on the subject. The most remarkable feature between the two divisions in respect to juridical character being, that in the first only fifty-eight prisoners escaped, and in the second there were *five hundred and eighty-three;* although brick-built jails are most prevalent in the latter:—

Comparative view of Crimes, &c. in the 2nd Division of Bengal, in 1843.

Districts.	Extent.			Crimes.			Offences.	Total.			Proportion of offenders to population, being *one in*
				Cases.							
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Against the person.	Against property.	Total.	Cases.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convicted, &c.	
Mymunsing	6,025	1,634,183	325.21	2,447	703	3,150	140	3,290	3,267	1,409	500
Dacca	2,400	542,540	226.05	1,771	391	2,162	453	2,615	2,707	2,016	201
Fureedpore	4,500	556,949	123.76	216	172	388	115	503	1,490	930	374
Sylhet..........	5,550	1,083,720	195.26	621	784	1,405	68	1,473	2,631	1,151	412
Bakurgunj	4,750	737,765	155.32	1,004	94	1,098	213	1,311	2,455	1,201	301
Tipperah & Noakollee ..	7,387	1,240,044	167.87	2,356	474	2.832	387	3,219	3,318	2,073	374
Chuttagong	2,980	700,800	235.17	451	132	583	100	683	1,395	687	502
Hooglee..........	2,509	1,508,843	601.37	684	455	1,139	735	1,874	2,317	1,242	651
Burdwan	3,776	1,673,460	353.46	592	600	1,192	483	1,675	2,392	1,148	699
Bankorah	2,420	557,725	231.46	342	262	604	252	856	1,369	315	408
24-Pergunnahs, with Howrah..	2,296	722,814	314.81	3,451	521	3,974	748	4,720	5,898	3,105	123
Baraset	3,588	336,743	93.85	531	368	899	160	1,059	1,117	496	301
Jessore	5,940	893,038	150.34	825	397	1,222	502	1,724	3,218	1,784	277
Nuddea	5,400	836,900	154.98	399	313	712	236	948	2,206	727	379
Midnapore	6,782	1,363,228	201.15	957	560	1,517	397	1,914	4,691	1,746	291
	65,303	14,408,752	220.64	16,649	6,226	22,875	4,989	27,864	40,471	20,030	356
Summary of the Bengal Presidency:											
1st Division	73,511	19,424,502	......	9,699	15,313	25,012	9,358	34,370	45,052	25,078	......
2d Ditto*	65,303	14,408,752	......	16,649	6,226	22,875	4,989	27,864	40,471	20,030	......
Total....	138,814	33,833,254	243.73	26,348	21,539	47,887	14,347	62,234	85,523	45,108	395

As the period embraced in those statements is only one year, and that bought forward rather with a view to carry the subject to the present time, and to exhibit a comparison with the state of crime in Great Britain, at as near a

* With exception to Cuttack, which is separated from the jurisdiction in respect to its Police.

date as such means of comparison offers, it will be only an useless trespass on the patience of the reader to go through the whole of the several districts seriatim as has been done during the previous periods of review; the following statements therefore are deemed sufficient exposition for all general purposes of the details. Only pointing out, however, the vast and disportionate extent of criminal cases, especially amongst crimes, and against the person in particular, that marks that year, 1843, to an extent, that fully bears out, combining itself, as it so evidently does, with the recent measures, imperfect, and insufficient as they undoubtedly are, a belief that there has been no actual increase; but only a greater vigilance preventing the concealment or suppression of such offences :—

Statement of amount per cent. of cases, &c. in 1843, exceeding or otherwise the average of the former periods in the 1st Division.

Districts.	Proportion of offenders convicted, &c.	Cases.		Concerned.				Convicted, &c.			
		1823 to 1826.		1823 to 1826.		1833 to 1836.		1823 to 1826.		1833 to 1836.	
		Above.	Below.	Above.	Below.	Above.	Below.	Above.	Below.	Above.	Below.
Patna	50 per cent.	53	..	45	..	84	..	63	..	55	..
Behar	57½ "	22	..	..	40	54	..	9	..	103	..
Sarun & Champarun	56 "	127	..	..	0⅔	121	..	34	..	176	..
Shahabad	51 "	2	..	..	37	51	..	..	24	75	..
Poorneah	62 "	..	75	..	77	..	26	..	64	.. par	..
Bhagulpore	75 "	248	..	101	..	195	..	276	..	311	..
Monghyr..	78 "	320	..	197	..	98	..	268	..	176	..
Tirhoot	60 "	..	26	..	15	161	..	58	..	242	..
Dinajpore	39 "	..	9	..	62	} 3	..	{ ..	58	} ..	14
Malda	28 "	52	..	..	16			{ ..	26		
Rungpore.	55 "	..	11	..	50	..	44	..	4	..	37
Rajshuhaee & Pubna	53 "	457	..	165	..	37.	..	279	..	74	..
Bugoorah	48 "	631	..	23	..	..	8	149	..	..	15
Moorshedabad	40½ "	275	..	29	..	..	12	44	..	2	..
Beerbhoom	58 "	60	..	..	7	40	..	10	..	43	..

But little of comment appears to be called for on this outline, except to draw attention to the peculiar manner in which it bears out the remarks made on the probability of the increase, when most apparent, having arisen from a greater vigilance in the juridical department; and this is the more remarkable in the number of cases in the zillahs Sarun and Rajshuhaee, wherein separations had been made to form the new zillahs of Champarun and Pubna, the latter

especially, wherein convictions increased two hundred and seventy-nine per cent. but subsequently in the following ten years lessened downward to seventy-four, as the benefit of the change worked its natural result. So also in Bhagulpore, Monghyr, Bugoorah, and Moorshedabad, to which more particular and repeated attention had been called, and more active measures resorted to, during the lapse of the twenty years intervening. The general increase of convictions must also be considered satisfactory, especially on those districts to which adversion has just been made, as having elicited more frequent and decidedly public calls for improvement :—

Statement of amount per cent. of cases, &c. in 1843, *exceeding or otherwise the average of the former periods in the 2d Division.*

Districts.	Proportion of offenders convicted, &c.	Cases.		Concerned.				Convicted, &c.			
		1823 to 1826		1823 to 1826		1833 to 1836		1823 to 1826		1833 to 1836.	
		Above.	Below.	Above.	Below.	Above.	Below.	Above.	Below.	Above.	Below.
Mymensing	43 per cent.	138	..	..	25	150	..	19	..	74	..
Dacca..............	74 "	151	..	20	..	84	..	64	..	81	..
Fureedpore.........	62 "	..	51	..	42	..	33	2	..	2	..
Sylhet.............	44 "	39	..	..	9	56	..	..	3	23	..
Bakergunj..........	49 "	44	..	..	26	8	..	..	20	..	12
Tipperah & Noakollee.	62 "	222	..	34	..	31	..	44	..	89	..
Chuttagong..........	49 "	24	..	13	..	..	4	44	..	..	..
Hooglee............	54 "	69	..	..	12	..	2	5	..	..	3
Burdwan............	48 "	..	29	..	60	..	2	.	35	31	..
Bankorah	23 "	*105	..	*64	..	341	..	..	14	58	..
24-Pergunnahs, with Howrah	53 "	234 (with Baraset)	..	42 (with Baraset)	..	90	..	80 (with Baraset)	..	81	..
Baraset	44 "					..	3			..	13
Jessore	55 "	61	..	..	3	..	1	102	..	20	..
Nuddea	33 "	55	..	10	..	35	..	7	..	25	..
Midnapore..........	37 "	3	..	24	..	132	..	253	..	61	..

Here too, as in the first Division, the aspect of affairs appears favorable to an improved condition of Police; although as in that, so in this second Division, the increase is greatest in the number of cases in most districts during the period of twenty years, in like manner distinguishing those districts, wherein a marked attention has been given on the part of Government, such as Dacca, Tipperah, Bankorah, and the vicinity of the metropolis: the latter exhi-

Proportioned to reduced jurisdiction.

biting an advance of two hundred and thirty-four per cent. Convictions too, shew a marked increase, particularly in those districts, where the example was notoriously so much called for, but in this respect it must be admitted the improvement is less striking than in the first Division numerically, but rather surpassing that part of the country in its district proportions to the offenders.

Coming now to what has been before assumed as the "mainspring of comparison in crime,"—the general summary,—it is necessary to remark, that in this portion, Cuttack, and the Ramghur, and part of Bankorah, constituting the North East provinces, have been deducted in all calculations, so as to bring the second Division on a par with the available official statements of 1843, the easiest course for the reader will be to exhibit at once an average statement of these, so reduced, in juxta-position with the summary for those years, so far as the data allow; thus

	Extent.			Crimes. Cases.			Offences.	Total.			Proportion of offenders to Population, being one in
	Square Miles.	Population.	Proportion per square mile.	Against the person.	Against property.	Total.	Cases.	Cases.	Concerned.	Convicted, &c.	
1823 to 1826....	118,413	31,934,145	269.69	407	8,925	9,332	29,116	38,448	90,038	34,779	355
1833 to 1836....	138,814	33,833,254	243.73	1,157	13,379	14,536	22,538	37,074	62,348	29,230	558
1843	138,814	33,833,254	243.73	26,348	21,539	47,887	14,347	62,234	85,523	45,108	395

This shews a rather extraordinary alteration in the state of criminal jurisprudence throughout the country; but not much more so than what almost immediately followed a reformation of the Police in Great Britain, and by a vastly greater development of crime leading the casual observer to believe that there must necessarily have been a vast increase in the period: and it has to be borne in mind that the year following, the last of the review hitherto taken in this work, viz. 1838, brought with it the revival of the appointment of a General Superintendent of Police throughout this presidency, or as it is called the Lower Provinces, whose duty it *should be* to supervise all the

police establishments, to correct them, and so far as possible to assist, as well as control, their efficiency. Of the benefit that has clearly, by the evidence of the above statement, resulted from this appointment, there can be no doubt, although wanting that scope and independence of action; or that efficiency of Government, that was necessary to entire success, without which it can only be, like all other Indian improvements, a *half* measure:—especially so long as it wants that acknowledged essential to Police improvement, a powerful, intelligent, honest, and active executive force under the authority of that Superintendent *alone, and in uniform subjection to his orders.* Yet something has been done,—enough to leave us a hope, at least, that the errors of police government,—complained of by Warren Hastings, who, with some degree of urgency, set their evils in glowing colors before the Home Government;—and which, to their credit, was urged on the Local authorities by the dispatch from the Hon'ble Court of Directors of the 20th January 1836, with the earnest desire that—" NO FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAND IN THE WAY OF A CHANGE SO EARNESTLY REQUIRED."—Enough, it may appear, has been done to lead to the expectation that something approaching efficiency of reform may take place ———— ———— ———— ———— before the close of the present century,—for the benefit of our great grandchildren,—and their successors !

Something too may result from the Deputy Magistrates, whenever their whole energy shall be directed to their judicial and executive duties unshackled by any of a fiscal nature; properly supported and controlled by the Superintendent of Police, independent of other authority, which nothing should clog;—something might then be expected to appear superior to what now appears in the return of 1843,—in that of—1853 !

To return, however, to the statement, this would appear to shew a falling off in the proportionate amount of offenders to the inhabitants, equal to twenty-seven per cent. as compared with the second period of review; and an advence of eleven per cent. on comparison with the first period.

It would appear that with every report some ground of complaint, grounded on deficiency of data for the objects derived in this work to be shewn, has to be noticed, in those from 1833 to 1836 a want of clear distinction of cases, as regards their being against the person, against property, or mere offences was only procurable partially ; the report of 1843 gives clearly and satisfactorily enough these data, but leaves us to feel the want of a corresponding division

of the perpetrators of these several descriptions of evil deeds, which is the more to be regretted as it is to be feared the want will affect the efficiency of comparison with the results in other countries; it also leaves the question of increase or decrease of offenders concerned in each crime unsolved. According to the reports then, there would appear to have been a very great increase in the number of cases of crime of every description, that had been brought forward, and enquired into by the magistrate; in respect to crimes against the person this increase bore to the first period of enquiry a rise of no less than six thousand three hundred and seventy-three per cent.; and to the second period two thousand one hundred and seventy-seven! whilst in respect to property the increase of cases would appear beyond 1823-26 some one thousand four hundred and thirteen per cent.! and beyond 1833-36 sixty-one per cent. This increase of cases would, at the average rate to each case of the two former periods, increase one lac and two thousand nine hundred and fifty-seven offenders, but as the whole amount of those concerned in every description of charge does not reach that number, a fair inference may be drawn that a very great deduction must have occurred in gang robberies, and crimes committed by numbers at a time, a conclusion which, thus rationally formed, in itself pronounces an improvement in the local police. The whole increase of cases of actual crime appearing as four hundred and thirteen per cent. above the first period of the statement, and one hundred and sixty-one per cent. in excess of the second period.

How different however appears the department of offences, for whilst such remarkable advance has been made in the branch most essentially affecting the real welfare of the people, these would seem to have been comparatively, as they most commonly ought to be, left to settle themselves; for, truly considered, what signifies it to the public, whether Teenkooree and Punchoo having got drunk together, the one thrashed the other, who therefore considering himself mightily aggrieved, and, after expending his entire stock of the foulest abuse, makes a complaint of assault and battery, in comparison with the due punishment, and hence eventually the suppression of crimes that endanger the lives and properties of the people at large. These cases therefore it is subject of congratulation to see so reduced that in 1843 they were less by very nearly fifty-one per cent. than from 1823 to 1826, and thirty-six per cent. less than from 1833 to 1836.

There is not much to remark in the sum total of all descriptions, beyond what has appeared in the course of the preceding details,—the cases having been sixty-two per cent. above the first period in number, and nearly sixty-eight above what they had been in the second period. At the same time in parties concerned there was a decrease from 1823 to 1826 of five per cent., and an excess on the next ten yearly period, of thirty-seven. Whilst although the convictions had advanced, yet not in that proportion that might have been expected, shewing twenty-nine per cent. only above 1823 to 1826, and fifty-four per cent. in excess of the period from 1833 to 1836. In respect to the proportion borne by crimes to the total of cases, it is found that those against the person bore as forty-two per cent. and those against property as about thirty-five per cent. with the whole heinous crimes, forming seventy-seven per cent. of the entire number of cases, against twenty-six and a half in the first period noticed, and between twenty-seven and twenty-eight in the second period, a difference that would deserve remark, had such not been already sufficiently elicited in the course of the foregoing observations. The only subject that remains to be noticed is the extent of dakoitees in 1843, of which the following is a statement:—

	Cases.	Concerned.	Convicted.	Proportion of convictions.
Dakoitee	326	1,717	530	31 per cent.
River Dakoitee	17	49	11	22½ ditto.

The ratio of convictions for dakoitee are nearly on a par with those between 1833 to 1836, being thirty-one per cent., against thirty-two, but they may be considered as bearing a better proportion, as in the present instance the reports may be looked on as more accurate in respect to the decision, as being actually a conviction;—in respect to river dakoitees, however, there appears a falling off in this respect, they have borne as thirty-seven per cent., but these must from the nature and uncertain detection of the crime always be very variable, and difficult in bringing to judgment—and it is well known that in this report the number of those concerned is very imperfectly stated as any one at all cognizant of the crime, and the mode of its perpetration, must be well assured that more than three individuals were concerned in each case, in

the former period even, inaccurate as it is, nine is the recorded number with three convictions, which in 1843 would stand only as 0.65. The dakoitees on land in this respect hold as 5.27 concerned, and 1.62 convicted to each case, against 14.90 and 3.74 respectively in the last two years of the former period of review.

The increase in cases as a necessary consequence brings with it increased labors to the public officer, and this year these appear to have averaged in each district two thousand and seventy-four, against, in the same districts, one thousand two hundred and eighty-one in the first period, and one thousand two hundred and thirty-six in the second; and to these there were parties two thousand three hundred and seventeen, being to each case nearly 1.12; this under the ordinary course of business, as before estimated, would give for the day's labor in each district about 7.18 cases having in them eight offenders—taking it therefore at the lowest calculation there must be in these cases at least eight prosecutors, with certainly not less than two witnesses to each, or twenty-four depositions on one side; and on the other certainly not less, thus making forty-eight examinations to be taken down, tested by cross-examination, duly weighed and considered, work, that although only equal duty to what was on record in the first period referred to, when be it remembered so much was said of "verandah justice" and depositions not being taken in the presence of the appointed authority, is yet beyond what appears in 1833 to 1836 to the extent of fifty per cent; besides the range of reports, which have been on the increase, *sooruthals, et id genus omne.* Who will say then, that the judicial branch alone of criminal business is insufficient for the entire occupation of the magistrate, and his one, or better yet, *two* assistants, and that the executive branch should be left to another class of officers, who have been excepted against so strangely; and the anomalous class of many-headed uncovenanted Deputy Magistrate, substituted, with his ill defined and worse regulated powers, often too, incumbered with fiscal duties as if to make him more useless, and shall it be said—ridiculous; but of this enough,—too much censure can hardly be passed on the way the criminal jurisprudence in this country is neglected, and left to be carried on without system, without control, or without government; and this is so generally admitted that it is as unnecessary, as it is certain to be disregarded, when more efficient labors towards that good end have proved unavailing, comment or argument or suggestion then, need not be reiterated here; and the

comparison of facts as respects other countries for 1843, need not therefore be longer deferred, bringing as it does a close to the endeavor made to exhibit, so far as practicable from such data as is accessable, the statistics of crime in this presidency during a long period, and under various changes, more or less laboring against neglect, and misdirection in the struggle of comparative inefficiency: and striving hard to overcome the worst opposition any department can meet, in the certainty that its improvement, (under the methods heretofore attempted,) must be one of expenditure, and not of immediate profit to the revenue, and this even in the face of the most liberal instructions from the Home Government:—*Why is this?*

The first of these views will be as before, England and Wales, of which the following forms a summary of reports for 1843:—

Year.	Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the population.	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.		Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders, *one* in	Convicted, *one* in
1843......	57,066	16,020,909	280.74	29,591	4,402	15,042	1,648	21,092	541	759

Following the previously adopted course, Ireland is placed next, which shows as follows:—

Year.	Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the population.	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.		Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders, *one* in	Convicted, *one* in
1843......	30,000	8,205,382	273.51	20,126	2,664	3,339	2,617	8,620	407	952

Scotland affords the following results :—

Year.	EXTENT.			PERSONS CHARGED.	CONVICTIONS.				PROPORTION TO THE POPULATION.	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.		Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders, *one* in	Convicted, *one* in
1843......	32,161	2,628,957	81.43	3,615	954	1,362	268	2,584	725	1,017

As nearly as can be ascertained also, the returns from France exhibit the following, but parts of this statement have, from the want of more particular information, been taken on an average of three preceding years :—

Year.	EXTENT.			PERSONS CHARGED.	CONVICTIONS.				PROPORTION TO THE POPULATION.	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Population per square mile.		Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Offences.	Total.	Offenders, *one* in	Convicted, *one* in
1843......	205,000	35,200,000	171.71	2,11,743	1,318	9,862	54,014	65,194	166	540

America furnishes so little of detail that no statement can be afforded, for, out of the whole, only a few States furnish any account of that decided character which could be relied on to however small an extent, from these it appears that about the period of review these States, having a population of all classes equal to 12,865,890, out of which there were convicted 5,656, of whom 490 were for crimes against the person, and 4,816 for crimes against property.

The following, therefore, is all the comparative view that can be offered for the year, but such as it is, it would appear rather satisfactory than otherwise :—

Countries.	Extent.			Persons charged.	Convictions.				Proportion to the population.				Proportion of convictions to charges.
	Square Miles.	Population.	Proportion per square mile.		Crimes.	Offences.	Total.	Proportion of Crimes to Offences, per cent.	Offenders charged, *one* in	Convicted.			
										For crimes, *one* in	For offences, *one* in	Total, *one* in	
Bengal	138,814	33,833,254	243.73	85,523	32,827	12,281	45,108	267	395	1,031	2,756	728	0.482
England & Wales	57,066	16,020,909	280.74	29,591	19,444	1,648	21,092	1,180	549	824	9,721	759	0.713
Ireland	30,000	8,205,382	273.51	20,126	6,003	2,617	8,620	229	408	1,367	3,135	952	0.428
Scotland	32,161	2,628,957	81.43	3,615	2,316	268	2,584	864	727	1,136	9,809	1,017	0.714
France	205,000	35,200,000	171.71	211,743	11,180	54,014	65,194	27	166	3,149	652	539	* 0.307
United States.....	..	12,865,890	..	..	5,306	350	5,656	1,516	..	2,424	36,759	2,274	..

Although Bengal would appear by this statement to have lost ground in its place amongst nations, with reference more particularly to the number of offenders, a reason for this apparent increase has already been assigned, which appears sufficient to satisfy even the fastidious; leaving her however still holding a fair medium in point of convictions, which bear a considerable preponderance on actual crimes as compared with the mere offences. That the persons apprehended have increased to a great extent since the last review, cannot be denied; bearing, as they do in the aggregate, with a much diminished difference of population, an excess over England and Wales of one hundred and eighty-two per cent. yet this is not so great as in the former periods, whilst the excess over Ireland with its additional population was only three hundred and twenty-five per cent. notwithstanding that country may be said to have stood still in this respect; whilst circumstances have combined to effect so great an advance in this country. The rest admit of but little comparison as has been before shown. In respect to convictions the most important changes are observable; more particularly as respects the ratio of those for criminal acts approaching so much more nearly that of Europe, &c. bearing a preponderance of 267 per cent. in lieu of fifty-four per cent. and about thirty-six per cent., and remarkable in this that it actually exceeds the ratio in Ireland—and, to repeat an observation that can hardly be too strongly urged, whilst criminal convictions had so increased, so advanced to the tranquilization of the country, and the increasing welfare and safety of its people, offences that arise from its domestic disturbance, and the disputes and personal restlessness of the inhabitants had in like manner decreased: thus in every way evincing police improvements, although not yet to the

extent that an entire change of system might, it is hoped and generally believed by those who really understand the subject, should have effected.

Having before remarked on the relative condition of crime in its connection with personal violence, we, for the purposes of comparison, insert the following statement :—

Bengal *one* in	1,091	of the inhabitants.
Scotland *one* in	2,756	ditto.
Ireland *one* in	3,080	ditto.
England and Wales *one* in	3,639	ditto.
United States *one* in	26,257	ditto.
France *one* in	20,707	ditto.

This although shewing such crimes to have increased in the previous ten years very considerably, exhibits also some changes for which few would have looked—and that whilst they may for a time place Bengal in the worst possible light, yet affords, to the right judging examination of criminal jurisprudence, a fair promise that if we live so long, the increased efficiency in a correctional police, for which, in its fullest power, every well-wisher to this country will still look, must greatly change the appearance of the Criminal Statistics of Bengal in 1853, placing her in that favorable and improved condition whereto she is now steering, as she ought long since to have done under the rule and Government of a nation that boasts of carrying enlightenment, humanity, improvement, and JUSTICE wherever she goes.

FINIS.

APPENDIX.

THE MOFUSSIL POLICE.

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE EARL OF AUCKLAND,

Governor General of India, &c. &c.

MY LORD,

At home we have found that Commissioners for public enquiry had been appointed, somewhat subsequently to the formation of a Committee for the like purpose here, they have long since made their report, the recommendations of which have also been carried into effect; but here we find that the proceedings affecting a subject of such vital importance to the country still remain in the same position, after more than three year's consideration,* leaving still in its full force the old police system, if system that can be called, which method has none, I trust therefore I may be excused for bringing the subject again to your lordship's notice with especial reference to that branch of it, which appears the greatest obstacle to improvement, and the least understood of all, in the consideration of the reforms acknowledgedly so essential in the police of Bengal, and in the necessity for which all parties agree, however they may differ as to the mode of their execution. Many points occur of much difficulty, especially under the present state of affairs in India. Among the most important of these is the means whereby the funds are to be raised to meet the cost of the required improvements.

The actual expense of the existing inefficient police is allowed to amount to Rs. 67,25,328 annually, including all its several branches; of this sum however only Rs. 6,65,472 are paid directly by the Government, or appear on the public accounts as an outlay from the revenue, the remaining Rs. 60,59,856, are *supposed* to be paid by the zumeendars to the chokeedars or village watch, for the support of that body; amounting, according to official returns, to no less than one hundred and sixty-seven thousand one hundred and ninety-six men, in thirty-two districts, a force of but little use, and to say the least rendering a service to the country far from adequate to the immense expense of their maintenance. This latter sum therefore it is desirable to bring in, for the purpose of establishing a uniform general police; but some difference of opinion appears to have arisen as to the

* Now not a little added to, without any further steps having been taken to effectual reform.

legality of appropriating the funds to such an end, as well as to its being possible directly to collect them in the villages without giving rise to serious discontent, and endangering the tranquillity of the country. I purpose therefore to endeavour at showing the real state of the case as respects these funds, by a reference to their rise and origin, according to the general practice of India, from the remotest antiquity.

Under the ancient native rule the *gorayet* and *pasban*, as well as the *chokeedar* or *pyke*, were considered village officers, and as such, received a certain provision conjointly, from the zumeendar and the villagers; having from the former an allotment of land, and from the latter receiving either in money or in kind certain fees on all public occasions: such as poojahs, harvest-homes, weddings, shrads, &c. &c. To this office therefore was attached some degree of respectability, the parties holding it having a station to maintain in the little community of their hamlet; and a sufficient support was consequently secured to them to maintain themselves and their families, in comfort and respectability. Under British rule however, the natural love of justice, and detestation of the very possibility of oppression, led persons formerly at the head of affairs in India to view in this simple and primitive system a wide field for public tyranny and exaction, and hence was begotten a determination to alter it to one that should at once secure to these public officers an adequate income, as was supposed, and relieve the villager from a presumed extortion. Hence in the proceedings of the President and Select Committee of the 16th August, 1769, the following occurs among the instructions to the supervisors posted in the interior of the country:—"The number, distribution, and pay of the darogahs, cutwals, *and pykes* are next. Their maintenance arises from lands set apart for their use, but *they are known frequently to exact articles of provision, and other things from the Ryots, and possess too great a latitude over the property and persons of the poor.* You must call upon the zumeendar for a list of these pykes and their stations, and enquire how far they answer the purposes of their institution, or have been multiplied without cause. You should endeavour to point out another, and better method of providing for, and restricting them in their duty; an established allowance, or something which may be determinate and not tend to the exercise of any power beyond that of their duty, would be most suitable." These instructions of Mr. Verelst led to the alteration that soon after took place, by the resumption of the lands appointed for the support of the chokeedars, although the precise time that this resumption occurred, does not appear on record; at least so far as published reports inform us.

A further description of the objects of the Chakeran lands appears in a minute prepared by the Hon'ble Warren Hastings, and considered at a Board of Council, or Committee of Revenue on the 14th May 1772, in which the following occurs:

"20 Para. The Chakeran lands are portions of ground allotted to certain of the inhabitants, whose office it is to preserve the peace of the country, and to guard it against common robbers, an establishment common to all parts of India, and of very ancient institution."

The resumption of these Chakeran lands had not, it is evident, been long in operation before the evils of it were discovered, or at least before fault was found with its operation;

for among the reasons given by the Hon'ble Warren Hastings for the increase of dakoitees, and other crimes in his note, laid before the Council on the 19th April, 1774, it is found enumerated that, "The resumption of the Chakeran Zumeen, or lands allotted to the Thannadars, *and Pykes* for their service in guarding the villages, and large districts against robbers, many of the people, thus deprived of their livelihood, have themselves turned dakoits. Such of the *monthly servants*, allowed by our late Regulations, as receive their allotted pay are wholly employed for the service of the farmers in the business of their collections; but the greater part, I am assured, have their wages wholly withheld from them; so that none of them are of any utility to the community," in consequence of this state of things he recommended as a remedy that "Chakeran Zumeen, or lands allotted for the mainteannce of the Thannadars and Pykes, which have been resumed, and included in Jumma, may be again separated from it, and applied to their original design." The Board of Council approved partially of this suggestion, and ordered the immediate execution of it at Cutwa, Mirzanagur, and Eechacandee, and hence the continued operation of the old system to this day in Burdwan, and partially elsewhere.

Pursuing the history of this cess it will be found, that the Board of Revenue issued a circular to their subordinates, dated the 13th October, 1790, under orders of the Governor General (Marquis Cornwallis) in Council directing that the Chakeran lands should "be annexed to the Malgoozaree lands of the Zumindars and Talookdars, and that they be subject to the public assessment." At the same time they declared expressly, that it was "not intended by this annexation *to increase the public revenue*, but merely to render the Chakeran lands responsible for the revenue assessed on the Zumindarees and Talooks in which they are included, in common with the Malgoozaree lands, and the whole consequently equally liable to the village allotment of the land tax." This was confirmed in the 37th article of the Code of Regulations relative to the decennial settlement published on the 23d November, 1791, and again in the 41st Section of Regulation VIII. of 1793, and a yet more recent circular from the Suddur Board of Revenue, under date the 12th November, 1833, (No. 190) contains a provision in furtherance of this rule, viz. "Para. 12. With respect to village expenses the Sudder Board have reason to think that much misapprehension has obtained. They have been regarded by some officers as an immunity, being confounded with Malikana, in the strict sense of the term; and others have mixed up with this item, the necessary allowance for risks of collection, or crop. But the former deduction from the rental should be closely restricted to those charges, to which its designation does in fact limit it,—to the payment of Putwarees, and *Chokeedars' wages*, and other unavoidable expenses connected with management and collection." And this liability, for arrears of Jumma, laid upon these restored lands, appears clearly founded in equity and justice, since it secured the transfer of these lands, along with the remaining portion of the estate, to the new proprietor, in cases where it was deemed necessary to recover arrears of revenue by the process of sale, and secured the purchaser from the possibility of being called upon to keep up an establishment, for the support of which he did not receive an equivalent.

The evidences above adduced clearly exhibit what the Chakeran lands were, under their several changes of management, and they also shew the responsibility of the Zumeendars for the support of the watch; since they have, it appears, received the equivalent for their maintenance. At the same time these extracts would induce the cursory observer to form the theory;—That as the landholders have been put in possession, under certain conditions, of lands, formerly appropriated to the occupancy and support of the village watch, for which lands no demand is made on account of Revenue; so these landholders do now support and maintain an efficient watch for the protection of the lives and property of the people at large, and that they do themselves pay them, and hold them under their control, jointly with the darogah: a conclusion apparently plain and explicit enough, at the same time that it is also sufficiently equitable and just.

But it is necessary before going further to examine how far this theory accords with existing practice,—and this can hardly be better effected than by referring to the replies to one of the queries issued to the magistrates by the late Superintendent of Police* in the latter end of the year 1838, this was

Query 8th.—What is the state of the village watch; and are they sufficiently paid; and what alteration would you propose for their reform?

On the last of these divisions of this query it is not purposed now to enter, especially as it led to very little information, and for convenience of reference the replies to the other two portions are abstracted separately. To proceed then—

What is the present state of the watch?

Patna.—The mofussil chokeedars are represented as very inefficient, and little dependence can be placed on them, as they are ever at disposal of the highest bidder; besides which, they are more looked upon as slaves of the Zumindars than servants of the police.

Behar.—The watch has been shamefully neglected, having almost fallen into disuse; though generally useful and good servants, when the means of maintenance in their own villages was confirmed to them.

Shahābad.—They are most inefficient; nothing occurs in the village without their knowledge, but being the creatures of the headmen, reports are only made conformably to their wishes.

Sarun.—No department requires a more thorough reform; they are sadly neglected, seldom remunerated, and never incited to an useful degree of activity; unrewarded too for faithful service, they often league with the most notorious thieves and vagabonds, not unfrequntly being themselves ringleaders and participators in the crimes they are appointed to prevent.

Surkar Champarun.—They were in the worst possible state, compelled for a livelihood to become thieves; the established custom was upon any thing being stolen to give the chookedar two or three rupees to get back the property. They are now in a little better order.

* Mr. T. C. Smith.

Poorneah.—The tax being collected by the chokeedars themselves, or by the mundnls, or putwarrees, is a very bad system, as the acting Magistrate fears that the chokeedars thus seldom receive their pay, and are consequently driven to thieving, &c. for a livelihood. To the same source also is owing the undue influence of the Zumeendars and their people over the chookeedars.

Bhagulpore.—The state of the village watch is by no means good; they are badly and irregularly paid.

Tirhoot.—The chokeedars are nominated by the Zumeendars at the rate of fifty houses to each chokeedar. A reform is urgently called for, as the present chookedars are generally dôsads, dhannees, and other low caste men; often themselves thieves.

Dinajpore.—There is scarcely any village watch, that is to say, the chokeedar takes his rest at night the same as his neighbours; besides which the beats are scattered over too great an extent of ground for the present number of chokeedars (7470 men, or one to 307 inhabitants,) to be of much use. They are often thieves from necessity, and the good they do is very problematical.

Malda.—The character and situation of the village watch is anomalous; they are inefficient, and are able to suppress many things in their reports to the darogahs which they turn to account, inadequately remunerated as they now are.

Rungpore.—The chokeedar system is good in itself, and its materiel should be a constant object of the magistrate's care; the acting magistrate has recently inspected the entire body, discharged the old and decrepit, and supplied the whole with chuprasses, spears and rattles, placing twenty to forty houses under each.

Rajshuhaee.—Very inefficient and scarce worthy the name of "watch;" most of them being employed all day by the Zumeendars or in agricultural pursuits are unable to perform their duty as watchmen at nights. They are also entirely under the control of the Zumeendars, headmen of the village, &c. without whose sanction they do not report any thing.

Bugoorah.—As good as can be expected.

Pubna.—There can be nothing more inefficient than the village watch ever since the abolition of corporal punishment. The chokedars are believed to be concerned in almost all the heinous crimes which are perpetrated. The system is altogether a bad one, the honester chokedars are obliged, for subsistence, to weary themselves by labor in the field, and thus incapacitate themselves for their duty, whilst the less scrupulous league with robbers. They are moreover altogether under control of the Zumeendars; nothing can be worse than the watch is at present.

Moorshedabad.—Inefficient.

Beerbhoom.—The chokeedars are parties to almost every robbery that takes place.

Mymensing.—The state of the village watch is bad.

Dacca.—All the honest men among them would gladly relinquish their employments.

Fureedpore.—The village watch are in the last stage of inefficiency; but the greatest present evil is their dependence on the heads of the village, and the Zumeendars.

Sylhet.—The watch in Sylhet is very imperfect.

Buckergunj.—The state of the watch is unquestionably bad, and its improvement will be a work of time; yet without a complete change in the nature of the watch, the chokeedars can number an efficient body; they are at present the servants of the Zumeendars and Talookdars, by whom they are are appointed, and the magistrate has sometimes found the houses over which they watch scattered in *different villages*, over a large extent of country, because the estates of the individuals who appointed them are so situated. They are the chief actors in affrays, and bring to light, or conceal crimes according to the wish of their principals. They are often thieves, receivers of stolen property, or bought over to silence.

Tipperah.—The village watch is as efficient as it is possible to make it under present circumstances. They are completely under the control of the Zumeendar and look to him in the first instance for orders.

Noakhollee.—The present system is a total failure, there is hardly a theft committed, or a crime perpetrated in which a chokeedar is not concerned, besides concealing crimes for a consideration to a large extent.

Hooglee.—The magistrate replied by giving extracts of his letter to the Commissioner of the 10th December 1836, the 8th May 1837, which enter into much detail, from whence it may be gathered that it is detrimental to their efficacy to be appointed exclusively by the Zumeendars; as well as from the tax whence they are paid being so irregulary paid. The chokeedar is generally, he adds, the concealer or active instrument of crime at the dictate of the Zumeendar; whose rents he fatigues himself in collecting, thus rendering himself unfit for the duty of watching.

The Twenty-four Purgunnahs.—Very inefficient, but under an improved system the chokeedars might afford a good material for forming one efficient arm of the police. They are at present undoubtedly too much under the influence of the Zumeendars and their Amlah.

Barrasut.—They are but indifferent.

Jessore.—Very inefficient, they do not always get paid, and consequently they neglect their duty, and from the influence of the Zumeendars, &c. they dare not report the commission of crimes.

Nuddeah.—The chokeedars having to collect the sum allowed them, the full amount fixed is rarely obtained.

Midnapore.—The watch is far from being on an efficient or sound footing.

These replies elicit very few facts of interest; being confined mostly to theoritical assertions, affording hardly any data, upon which to base remarks. All however excepting the magistrates of Rungpore, Bugoorah, and Tipperah, agree in representing the present state of the watch as inefficient, and of these the last mentioned confines his representation of the efficiency of the establishment to the simple expression of the watch "being as efficient as it is possible to make it under present circumstances." If further proof of their defective character be wanting; it may be found in the annexed statement of chokeedars dismissed between the 1st January 1835 and the 1st January 1838, which affords a fair criterion of the state of the watch, as far it comes to the knowlege of the authorities :—

Statement of Chowkedars dismissed, &c. between the 1st January 1835 and the 31st Dec. 1837, as per returns replying to Circular, No. 74 of 1837.

	Dismissals and their Cause.																							For future employment.	
	Old Age.	Absence without leave.	Neglect.	Sickness.	Contumacy.	Intoxication.	Asleep on duty.	Reduction of establishment.	By promotion.	By resignation, or extreme youth.	Embezzlement, or Forgery.	Bad character, or suspected of crime.	Concealing crimes, or aiding escape.	Accessories to crimes.	Bribery, extortion, or oppression.	Perjury, false evidence, or false Complaint.	Affray, assault, or wounding.	Robbery, or Theft.	Burglary.	Murder, and Tuggee.	Total.	Establishment.	Annual proportion per cent.	Fit.	Unfit.
Patna	35	34	116	1	2	13	7	24	.	..	4	5	5	3	1	3	14	19	8	..	294	3,558	2·75	229	65
Behar	17	117	148	2	..		..	..	1	2	1	3	3	3	..	2	.	.	..	..	296	6,425	1·53	..	..
Shahabad	17	12	126	..	2	..	..	..	.	1	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	1	.	..	163	4,873	1·10	..	all
Poorneah	..	..	30	..		..	..	.		..	..	1	2	2	..	1	..	5	3	..	44	9,665	0·15	29	15
Bhagulpore	..	..	18	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	3,294	0·24	14	10
Monghyr	12	30	66	6	2	6	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	2	..	7	..	..	135	3,130	1·43	114	21
Tirhoot	20	227	117	25	..	..	..	1		61	.	..	..	8	..	1	..	23	..	..	483	8,649	1·86	..	..
Dinajpore	8	5	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	26	7,470	0·12	..	..
Malda	2	..	33	..	1	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	39	2,192	0·59	23	16
Rungpore	214	21	157	87	1	2	..	6	..	119	2	6	6	*7	1	5	17	64	..	1	716	7,594	3·14	..	..
Rajshuhaee	1	8	3	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	1	4	2	..	..	..	26	4,255	0·20	7	19
Bugoorah	..	.	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	2	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	6,141	0·03	4	2
Pubna	5	14	73	16	..	1	..	2	..	56	1	12	13	3	3	1	1	8	..	..	209	3,255	2·14	157	52
Beerbhoom	41	24	35	8	3	3	..	..	..	..	2	†47	..	9	..	4	2	45	6	4	233	13,151	0·59	..	all
Dacca	..	25	11	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	2	..	3	1	1	..	..	52	2,746	0·62	..	all
Fureedpore	15	..	65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	1	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	85	2,667	1·05	..	..
Sylhet	..	2	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	35	3,146	0·38	..	..
Bukurgunj	7	20	20	2	4	..	..	..	..	‡44	4	3	21	1	3	4	8	3	1	..	145	2,799	1·73	§137	8
Tipperah	..	2	26	.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	1	5	8	2	..	..	50	2,842	0·59	36	14
Noakhollee	41	6	38	19	2	..	..	24		9	1	3	8	6	4	..	8	2	..	..	171	1,767	3·22	..	..
Hooglee	..	..	135	..	1	5	.	..	.	..	..	20	28	7	5	4	..	19	1	.	228	8,750	0·85	35	‖193
Burdwan	..	.	74	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	3	19	29	..	..	2	7	25	5	..	164	8,177	0·66	102	62
Bankoorah	17	122	140	8	4	..	..	..	..	15	16	30	33	..	3	2	16	107	9	14	536	4,560	3·92	195	341
24-Pergunnahs	10	5	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	..	3	4	4	2	.	..	46	3,358	0·45	22	24
Baraset	4	8	28	13	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	15	2	5	..	2	4	10	2	..	94	2,001	1·56	..	..
Jessore	75	97	117	25	5	..	..	..	..	155	1	9	..	10	..	1	..	..	.	.	494	4,142	3·98	..	all
Nuddeea	21	..	163	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	61	..	1	..	..	..	12	4	..	265	3,758	2·38	159	106
	562	777	1788	214	31	33	7	57	1	462	42	246	178	70	28	55	96	357	39	19	5062	130365	1·29	1263	1890
Annual average.	187	259	596	71	10	11	2	19	..	154	14	82	59	23	9	18	32	119	13	6	1687	..	..	421	630

The returns from Sarun, Surkar, Champarun, Moorshedabad, Mymunsing and Midnapore have not yet been received.

* Chiefly cases of arson. † Many of these are connected with thugs. ‡ Mostly fanatics.
§ Among those pronounced by the Magistrate as "fit" for re-employment there are 2 dismissed for *old age*; 4 for *fraud and embezzlement*; 3 for robbery; 4 for making false statements; 8 for *assaults*; 1 for *blindness*; 3 for oppression; 1 for *burglary*, and 82 for *being accessory to, or concealing crimes*.
‖ Doubtful.

From this it is evident, that the dismissals, for known causes, were annually rather more than five in every four hundred, and that out of 1,30,365 watchmen, the number discharged, for actual crimes, has been on an average three hundred and seventy-six annually, being a result equal to 2·88 in the thousand of men placed as guardians over a people among whom the general ratio of actual crime is only about 0·86 in the thousand, a more than three-fold ratio. This in itself were surely sufficient ground to establish the disgracefully useless state of the watch under the present system, and to prove the necessity for some reform, even without other reasons, but these are to be found in abundance;—1st, in the absence of any uniformity in the proportionate strength of this force in the several zillahs, whether as regards the extent of ground, the local population, or the number of villages to each;—2nd, in the very unequal pressure of the cess for their maintenance, averaging throughout Bengal at Rs. 22-8-6 on every hundred souls (or about three annas seven and a half pie each); but rising in Bankoorah to the heavy ratio of Rs. 229-2-4 per hundred (or *two rupees four annas and eight pie* from each individual); a sum that must be ruinous to a poor laborer, having a large family dependent on the work of his hands for subsistence, especially occurring, as it does, in an impoverished district. Whilst in Bhagulpore, the riches of which are evident in the large exports made from that zillah in grain and other produce, the rate per hundred inhabitants is only Rs. 7-1-5 (or one anna and one and a half pie from each individual); and again —3rdly, in the want of that undivided control from the police, which is essential to the uniformity of action required in suppression of crime, and impossible when the chokeedars serve two masters, and are alike amenable to the control of the zemindar and the magistrate. The next portion of this query relates to the sufficiency of the chokeedars' pay, and the following are the replies to this part of the subject:—

PATNA.—The chokeedars have small nominal allowances varying from *two annas!* to as many rupees, and in some instances, only a small allowance of rice, all of which are very irregularly paid.

BEHAR AND SHAHABAD.—These Magistrates make no mention of this part of the question.

SARUN.—They are seldom remunerated.

SURKAR CHAMPARUN.—Their pay is sufficient when regularly received.

POORNEAH.—It is feared they get but a scanty portion of the assumed allowance, which were it regularly paid would be sufficient.

BHAGULPORE.—Some receive two or three rupees a month, others have from five to ten beegahs of ground.

TIRHOOT.—They are paid sometimes in money, sometimes in grain or lands, its value varying from about twelve annas to two rupees eight annas per mensem, the general average being Rs. 1-5-19-3 each, a sum inadequate to the support of one individual, far less a family of six or seven, as is generally the case with chokeedars.

DINAJPORE.—They are very badly paid; nominally getting but little by right they actually get less from having to collect their own stipend from the villagers, which makes them dependent on each individual of them.

MALDA.—Their salary as actually paid is very inadequate, varying from one rupee eight annas, to one rupee twelve annas, and two rupees.

RUNGPORE.—Their salary is uncertain in amount from being levied by a tax on the inhabitants within their beat.

RAJSHUHAEE.—Their nominal pay is three rupees per mensem, but they seldom get half.

PUBNA.—The stipends vary from one rupee eight annas to three rupees, but are quite insufficient for maintaining themselves and their families.

MOORSHEDABAD.—Insufficient as at present collected.

BEERBHOOM.—They are generally paid in land, varying from 30 beegahs to 5, the average being about twelve beegahs, but that is inadequate.

MYMENSING.—They are under paid.

DACCA.—Their pay in some places is only twelve annas and in all inadequate.

FUREEDPORE.—It is to be persumed from the joint Magistrate's reply which is very indefinite, that they are not under paid.

BAKURGUNJ.—They are paid generally three rupees per mensem, which as they also cultivate some land is sufficient.

TIPPERAH.—They are paid between three rupees and two rupees eight annas per mensem.

NOAKALLEE.—Their pay is far too little to afford even a temptation to be honest.

HOOGLEE.—The chokeedars receive somewhat less, on the average, than three rupees per mensem, which is evidently in the magistrate's opinion too little, as he proposes to have it increased.

TWENTY-FOUR PERGUNNAHS.—Known to be four rupees per mensem each, which *with perquisites* is pronounced by the magistrate as sufficient.

BARASET.—The pay they receive is four rupees which is considered sufficient and more than people in their class of life generally obtain.

JESSORE.—They are allowed from two to three rupees per mensem, which last would be sufficient if regularly paid.

NUDDEEAH.—The present nominal pay of three rupees eight annas is quite sufficient if regularly paid.

MIDNAPORE.—Some are remunerated by small plots of Jageer land, and where this is not the case the money payments range from Rs. 2-4 to Rs. 2-12 but the total average value as far as can be ascertained is Rs. 1-4-4; on which it is impossible for them to live.

Pursuing the view of the chokeedars' case as exhibited by the magistrate in these replies the following statement will shew the amount collected for the support of the watch

with their numbers in each district of thirty-two under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of Police, respecting which accurate information has been obtained: another column is annexed to shew what would be the amount at the generally assumed rate that custom has allowed of three rupees per mensem, giving exception only to such districts as are acknowledgedly sanctioning and collecting above that rate of allowance.

Districts.	*Square Miles.*	*Chokeedars.*	*Reported amount.*	*Calculation at 3 per mens.*
Patna	1,960	3,584	45,696	1,29,168
Behar	1,196	6,463	2,32,668	2,32,668
Shahabad	3,956	4,873	1,75,428	1,75,428
Sarun	2,520	4,026	1,44,936	1,44,936
Champarun	2,515	2,772	99,792	99,792
Poorneah	10,800	9,828	3,53,808	3,53,808
Bhagulpore	9,600	3,345	1,00,350	1,20,420
Monghyr	4,166	3,155	1,13,580	1,13,580
Tirhoot	10,000	8,649	1,42,710	3,11,324
Dinajpore	4,136	7,470	2,68,920	2,68,920
Malda	3,500	2,192	46,032	78,912
Rungpore	6,570	7,594	2,73,384	2,73,384
Rajshuhaee	4,264	4,268	76,824	1,53,648
Bugoorah	3,968	3,418	1,23,048	1,23,048
Pubna	3,324	3,255	87,885	1,17,180
Moorshedabad	4,235	3,758	1,35,288	1,35,288
Beerbhoom	3,850	13,970	3,35,280	5,02,920
Mymensing	5,025	5,796	2,08,656	2,08,656
Dacca	2,400	2,766	99,576	99,576
Fureedpore	4,500	2,667	96,012	96,012
Sylhet	5,550	3,146	1,13,256	1,13,256
Backergunj	4,750	2,834	1,02,024	1,02,024
Tipperah	4,387	2,860	94,380	1,02,960
Noakollee	3,000	1,767	63,612	63,612
Hooglee	2,509	10,034	3,61,224	3,61,224
Burdwan	3,776	8,242	2,96,064	2,96,064
Bankorah	2,900	8,817	3,17,412	3,17,412
24-Pergunnahs	2,296	3,400	1,63,200	1,63,200
Baraset	3,588	2,058	98,784	74,088
Jessore	5,940	4,142	1,21,260	1,49,112
Nuddeeah	5,400	3,758	1,57,836	1,35,288
Midnapore	6,782	12,307	1,93,833	4,43,052
	1,43,363	1,67,196	52,42,758	60,59,856

From this it will be seen that even taking the lowest admitted amount for support of these watchmen there is annually expended Rs. 52,42,758—from a population of 29,677,241, which at a ratio of six persons in each family would, were it equally distributed,

cause a demand of about one rupee one anna annually from every householder, a sum moderate enough were the purpose really effected, and that amount alone levied, and appearing in theory clear enough,—but is it so in practice? This is a subject whereon I feel some hesitation in stating the conclusions, to which I have come, and I crave that they be received only with a due consideration to the foundation on which the opinions of the magistrates are formed, to whose status I am opposed, because personal experience and investigation, made at the expense of considerable labor, have satisfied me of their inaccuracy on the grounds about to be exhibited. Originally agreeing in the opinion generally expressed by nearly all the magistrates, that these chokeedars were seldom if ever, paid for the duties they performed, or at all events that they were so inadequately remunerated as to leave them open to every temptation; my inquiries were commenced with a strong bias in favor of this, so generally entertained opinion, that they were poor oppressed individuals having no sufficient means of subsistence, but called on to perform arduous public duties: and from the replies above abstracted it would appear that the salaries they receive vary from two annas, a sum hardly credible as a stipend, to three rupees (and in two instances four rupees per mensem) the same being wholly inadequate, as some say, to the support of an individual; many however of the officers making reply to the query, whilst they express their belief that the chokeedars receive less than three rupees per mensem, evidently consider that an adequate salary. Now it is very evident that the magistrates build their opinion of the existing remuneration of the watch, on the supposition that they are allowed and do actually attempt only to collect a fixed sum gathered from house to house and often unpaid; and that they are unaware that, as I have very good ground for asserting and the magistrate of the Twenty-four Purgunnah bears me out in the assertion, by acknowledging that they receive "perquisites," that they still continue to levy the fees, &c. formerly allowed to chokeedars under the native governments, on marriages, on poojahs, and on such like occurrences among the villagers, amounting to a very considerable sum; though what is its actual amount, would be very difficult to ascertain, as no data can be obtained of that which is dependent on uncertain and irregular occurrences; especially when the parties are also aware of the illegality of the levy itself. On this account it is with great reluctance, and only after mature consideration, that I have ventured to take up the position, now put forth, founded on information collected with some pains in more of the zillahs, and obtained from various resources, zumeemdars, their omlahs, shop-keepers, and ryotts of various denominations, very often backed and supported by chokeedars themselves, the following are given only as specimens of the information collected:

BHAGULPORE.—A *chokeedar* receiving his full three rupees per mensem stationed a little beyond Rajmuhal, stated to a public officer that he received a rupee a month from marriages, poojahs, &c. This was confirmed, as the custom of the neighbourhood, by a ryott of the Berhampore village, near Seetakoond in Monghyr.

PATNA.—At Bar complaints were made to the late Superintendent of Police by

several chokeedars, that they were able to collect only from twelve annas to a rupee per mensem, but in conversation those men admitted that besides their salaries each collected from sixteen to twenty rupees annually, which was confirmed by the Darogah, and jummadar of the thanah.

SHAHABAD.—At Boroogunj, in Shahabad, a like acknowledgement, to the foregoing, was made by a chokeedar to the extent of twenty-four rupees annually.

POORNEAH.—At Dhurool in the Akhunghur thannah jurisdiction, the zumindar's mohurree, and several ryotts declared that the chokeedars' perquisites were equal to at least four rupees a month, besides their pay, the latter stated by the darogah to be form one to two rupees.

NUDEEAH.—At Agurdeep a chokeedar complained bitterly of receiving no more by his collections from "the ryotts in small sums of four pice from one, eight pice from another," than two rupees twelve annas monthly, but a little conversation led to the admission that from presents on marriages, poojahs, and so forth, he received "two score" rupees annually.

BURDWAN.—At Kutwa it was ascertained from the shop-keepers with several of whom conversations were held, (confirmed afterwards by the darogah,) that the chokeedars are considered authorized to collect four rupees per mensem, but that presents, fees on marriages, poojahs, &c. raise their wages to between seven and eight rupees per mensem.

At Moishurah an inhabitant told me that the chokeedars legitimately collected from two rupees twelve annas to three rupees monthly, but that their fee on every marriage was one rupee as a fixed rate, and that at poojah they received from four annas to a rupee according to the pleasure of the offerer; and by these means their income was always from five to six rupees.

BARASET.—At Googhur two chokeedars informed me they received four rupees regularly, collected from the ryotts, besides from four to eight annas on every marriage, cloth, &c. of a rupee value on each poojah, and some further donation at the poojah in Asin; making about fifty rupees a year each.

24-PURGUNNAHS.—At Chingree-hutta it was discovered that two chokeedars collected annually about *nine hundred rupees between them.*

I could enumerate more instances but these will suffice to illustrate the grounds I have taken up, and form a fair average, (excluding the last most exorbitant case of extortion,) of above a quarter of the zillahs, and which would afford a ratio of sixty-four rupees each chokeedar, and giving as the amount of this cess the enormous annual sum of Rs. 1,07,00,544,—levied from a people paying a Government revenue of Rs. 300,93,047!

There are those who might oppose the conclusions I have here laid down, by saying,—surely the official reports of a large majority of the magistrates are more worthy of credence than the statements, however succinct, of a mere individual of but humble pretensions; nevertheless I am disposed to urge strongly that reliance should be placed on these

details; for, confined generally to his station, hedged in by the authority of his position, as well as surrounded by a host of native officers, all interested in giving their own coloring to the state of affairs, few indeed are the vibrations of truth that ever reach the magistrate's well guarded ears—Besides, private individuals may, and do freely converse with natives of all classes, a privillege but infrequently sought by those in authority, although some few honorable exceptions may be found of such intercourse being freely exercised; and still more seldom does it occur that they have the power of free converse with natives, being generally accompanied by servants, private or public, before whom few of the inhabitants of a zillah will speak with freedom, although to one or more Europeans, unattended, I have generally found all classes very communicative on most subjects whether of a public or private nature. But enough has been said in advocacy of the opinion I have maintained, and I leave it therefore to others to judge between it, and the official reports, such as they are.

To shew that this sum of Rs. 107,00,544, or at the lowest Rs. 52,42,758, is available for the purposes of a reformed police, without injustice being done to the Zumeendars many arguments might be adduced, but they must all shrink into insignificance near the simple fact,—that, after receiving the lands appropriated in olden times for support of the chokeedars, they have done nothing, as appears from the amended code of Regulations, approved by the Governor-General in Council on the 23rd November 1791:

"Sec. 37th. The Chakeran lands, or lands held by public officers, and private servants in lieu of wages, are also not meant to be included in the exception contained in the 33rd article. The whole of these lands, in each province, are to be annexed to the Malguzaree lands, and declared responsible for the public revenue, assessed on the Zumeendarees and Talooks in which they are included, in common with all other Malguzaree lands therein; and consequently equally liable to the village allotment of the land tax directed in the 43rd article of these regulations" And further from the Circular Order of the Board of Revenue, dated the 13th October, 1790, before quoted, declaring that "it is not intended by this annexation to increase the public revenue," the Zumeendars appear to have entirely neglected to fulfil the conditions of this annexation of the Chakeran lands; and, instead of supporting the village watch, or in any way contributing to their remuneration, for which they enjoy this equivalent, have thrown the whole cost and expense of maintaining them on the villagers themselves; and this depends not for proof, on any speculative assertions, but is evident from the reports of the magistrates before quoted, by whom it is sanctioned and authorized; the condition which should make the support of this body claimable from the Zumeendar alone being, the having been for a series of years, entirely overlooked by the authorities, and thus a source of oppression and extortion, so dreaded by rulers of the last century, opened and sanctioned by the Government of this. But the error goes even yet further, and allows to the Zumeendars the employment of these very Chokeedars, as private servants, in the collection of their rents, as appears also by the reports, were such confirmation wanted of a fact so generally well known: this also appears to arise from a mistake in mingling up together several duties appointed for different classes of chokeedars, pasbans, pykes, &c. but for which separate

and distinct provisions are also allotted: this is made clear from the fifth report of the Select Committee on the Affairs of the East India Company, under date the 20th July, 1812; wherein, explaining the principle on which the revenue of Government is collected and the several proportions of the produce of the soil apportioned to the Ryot, the Zumeendar, &c. the following is the appropriation laid down—"The shares varied when the land was recently cleared and required extraordinary labor; but when it was fully settled and productive, the cultivator had about two-fifths, and the Government the remainder. The Government share (three-fifths) was again divided with the Zumeendar and the village officers, in such proportion, that the Zumeendars retained no more than about one-tenth of this share, or little more than about three-fiftieth parts of the whole; but in instances of meritorious conduct, the deficiency was made up to him by special grants of land denominated nankar (or subsistence.) The small portions which remained were divided between the Mokuddim, or head cultivator of the village, who was either supposed instrumental in originally settling the village, or deriving his right by inheritance, or by purchase, from those transactions, and had still the charge of promoting and directing its cultivation; *the pâsban, or gorayet, whose duty it was to guard the crop*, as the chokedar the property, the persons and the peace of the inhabitants; and the putwara or village accountant." Now these "pâsbans or gorayets" the Zumeendars might legitimately employ as servants, inasmuch as being paid out of the five per cent. allowed for collections, and which may be said to come out of their pockets, this third of the five per cent. would amount on the Annual Assessment to Rs. 6,68,734 and this they might still be allowed to retain; whilst justice appears to demand that they be made to disgorge the Chakeran lands, or pay revenue for them, the balance being levied from the inhabitants. But even if the whole amount of from 52 to 60, or even 107 laks were continued to be levied from this last, it could hardly be considered a hardship, as it would be for their own protection, and at the least not exceed what they willingly now disburse through a channel literally unauthorized. I must, however, disclaim originality in the view I have taken of the case of the Chokeedars, and their means of support, for though my former communications bore the same interpretation and suggested the same proceeding, yet subsequent reading has brought to my notice the following remarks or correspondence adverting to the same object, and from its authority thus far giving strength and confidence to arguments that I had otherwise tendered with more diffidence.

A letter from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors to the Governor-General in Council of Bengal, dated the 20th October, 1813, says,

"We fully coincide with you in opinion, that all native officers of police, whether village watchers or others, should be brought, as much as possible under the direct control of the magistrates; and are also convinced that without zeal, energy, and intelligence on their part in the discharge of their important functions, the best regulations must prove ineffectual and nugatory. On their superintending vigilance and activity in controlling and directing these subordinate instruments, does primarily, and almost wholly, depend the success of any system of police, however well devised. But it is stated by you as your opinion that

the native officers of police, among whom you include the village watchmen, cannot be brought under control of the magistrate, whilst they are 'paid, whether in land, grain, or money by the Zumeendars.' To this we have to observe, as far as the remark is intended to apply to the village watchers, *that it does not apear they are supported at the expense of the Zumeendars, but at the expense of the State,* and of the inhabitants of the villages to which they belong; that from the former they derive their land, and from the latter their grain and money perquisites;* nor can they be considered as the servants of the Zumeendars, but the public officers of the little village community of which they are members. If the re-establishment of this village police in their customary advantage should not yield them an adequate remuneration for the services, they will be required to perform, it will naturally become a question whether any additional allowance which it may be necessary to afford them, should be paid by the inhabitants of the villages, or be defrayed by Government. We certainly consider it but just and reasonable, and we believe in perfect agreement with ancient custom, that whatever expense is incurred in maintaining the village watchmen, in addition to what they derive from the lands attached to the office, should be borne by the other villagers, within their respective boundaries, aud who receive the benefit of their services, nor do we conceive that the inhabitants would object to contribute what might be necessary for the support of a village watch, on such principles as might be in consonance with former usage, if at the same time relieved from unauthorized payments on that account, which may be levied by native servants and applied to their own use."

Again in their letters of the 9th November 1814, the Honorable Court add—"We have little doubt that a proper course of enquiry would in innumerable instances, bring to light irregular and surreptitious assumptions of territorial allotments which properly belong to the village police. These should be resumed, and applied to their original uses; care being taken in the exercise of this power, not to interfere with the just rights of any party. Where the permanent settlement has taken place, and the produce of the police lands are excluded from the assets on which the jummah was calculated, and fixed with the zumeendars, alienations of land of this latter description would also, on general principles, be justly liable to be restored to their former purposes."

And again in the Honorable Court's letter of the 19th May 1815, this occurs—"It is also highly neccessary, in order to prevent the villagers from being doubly burthened for the same purpose, to ascertain whether they may not, already in some clandestine form or other, be still taxed for the maintenance of the public police of the village, though the funds thus raised may be misapplied to purposes of private advantage; whenever this may be found to be the case, the inhabitants should be relieved by such contributions being made to form a part of the general levy for the maintenance of the police."

These all go to support the position I have proposed, that the zumeendars themselves, receiving the benefit of the lands originally appointed for maintenance of the village watch, have appropriated these to their own use, and saddled the people with the burden; by

* This is supposing that the Zumeendars really pay to them the rents of the Chakeran lands.

leaving the chokeedars to levy from them what they could, until at last usage has legitimatized the demand, and the necessity of finding some sure mode of livelihood for the watch induced the authorities by their sanction, to give a kind of legality to a practice not really lawful, by admitting the process of levy to be made to a certain limit; and the number of officers to be generally nominated on something like a systematic ratio.

This appears to be the real state of the case, and the Government would therefore be fully justified in the resumption of these so misappropriated lands,—thereby relieving the people altogether from this burden. But it does not appear that the necessity of the case requires this sacrifice of a demand made on the people, which is unresisted—uncomplained of—and which custom has so fully established as to render almost unfelt—whilst liberality, and perhaps also prudence might induce the overlooking this delinquency, for such it literally is, on part of the past zumeendars especially, as a regular and fixed demand according to properly systematized arrangements would relieve the people of nearly half the burden, that I have endeavored to shew that the inhabitants at large labor under, by the extortionate continuance of perquisities which it was one of the chief objects of the former Government, in adopting the present system, to do away with. The zumeendars too, under this view of the circumstances of the case, and under the concession, or even part of the concession, here suggested, may fairly be called upon to become securities for the due and faithful levy of the cess, and be made the organ of remitting its amount to the Government treasuries.

To exhibit that the mode I propose would give the relief assumed to the people at large, I will endeavor to sketch a plan, with the expense, of a new police so as to compare the wants for a reform, with the funds available for that purpose. It is unnecessary here to attempt proving the necessity for a reform, as that is admitted by all parties; suffice it to refer to the main point merely, wherever reform is called for in the present system; and this, as admitted by several of the magistrates, appears to be in the want of a more effective,—sufficient,—and frequent surveillance of its inferior, or rather of all its Mofussil officers; for were they actively superintended, the same police officers, corrupt and oppressive as they now are, would, there is no doubt, prove both efficient and useful servants; since were they subjected to frequent personal supervision by an European officer, so as to prevent the commission of acts of oppression with impunity, and to secure immediate discovery of their present unlicensed extortion, by giving to the villagers an opportunity of making personal complaints of such conduct, without subjecting themselves to greater violence or increased extortion, they would be better off, and this can only be attained by such additional European aid frequently traversing the zillahs, as may afford to every villager a free, and almost constant intercourse with superintending officers. To do this efficiently would require officers capable of trust, active and intelligent, in each district; with assistants steady, sober and quick; and to secure these, liberal salaries must be given; a consolidated allowance is perhaps at once the most satisfactory and economical, but in framing this it must be remembered, that as they should be constantly moving about, and necessarily often subjected to the performance of excessively fatiguing duties, in a climate especially

like that of Bengal, constantly exposed to heat, or to heavy rains, their expenses must necessarily be great, if they perform their duty effectively—if otherwise,—or if their means be straitened,—they will be useless.

I would therefore suggest, that there be a grade of officers as Superintendents of Police in each Zillah divided into six classes, at Rs. 1,000,—Rs. 800,—Rs. 700,—Rs. 600, —Rs. 500,—Rs. 400 per mensem, respectively; with Assistants in three classes at Rs. 250, —Rs. 200,—and Rs. 150, these to be appointed as follows, according to extent of the several Zillahs in area and population:—

	Superintendents.						*Assistants.*			
	1st.	*2d.*	*3d.*	*4th.*	*5th.*	*6th.*	*1st.*	*2d.*	*3d.*	*Total.*
Bakkurgunj,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Baraset,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Beerbhoom,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Behar,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Bhagulpore,	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Bugoorah,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Burdwan,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Bankorah,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Dacca,	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Dinajpore,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Fureedpore,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Hooghly,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Jessore,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
Malda,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Midnapore,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Monghyr,	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Mymunsing,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Moorshedabad,	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Nuddea,	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Noakollee,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Patna,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Poorneah,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Pubna,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
24-Purgunnahs,	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Rajshuhaee.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Rungpore,	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Sarun,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Champarun,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Shahabad,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sylhet,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Tipperah,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Tirhoot,	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
	2	4	5	6	7	8	2	12	32	46

The amount of this superintending establishment would be therefore.

Superintendents.

2 of 1st Class,	... ...	24,000	
4 ,, 2nd ditto,	... ...	38,400	
5 ,, 3rd ditto,	... ...	42,000	
6 ,, 4th ditto,	... ...	43,200	
7 ,, 5th ditto,	... ...	43,200	
8 ,, 6th ditto,	... ...	38,400	
			2,29,200

Assistants.

2 of 1st Class,	... ...	6,000	
12 ,, 2nd ditto,	... ...	28,800	
32 ,, 3rd ditto,	... ...	57,600	
			92,400
			3,21,600
Superintendent General of Police, Lower Provinces,		50,000	
Ditto for Establishment,	... ...	20,488	
			70,488
			3,92,088

Uniting the Police and watch into one general body, it should be distributed with reference to the extent alike of area and population, and divided, I would suggest, into heads of Thannahs, or Inspectors, at Rs. 100 each, (Mr. Halliday, in his minute, proposes Rs. 120, but I cannot but think this unnecessarily high, when we consider the class from which they must necessarily be chosen, and who, if highly paid, are but too apt to be led into vices and debauchery incapacitating them for their duty,) or if the higher sum of 120 Rupees, proposed by Mr. Halliday, be adopted, the whole of these officers might be divided into three classes, say for instance a quarter of their number at Rs. 120, one quarter at Rs. 100, and the other half at Rs. 75 respectively, making on the average about Rs. 91-8 each, and this subdivision is the more advisable; because, the greater the number of rewards in prospective promotion, that a service of this description can command, the greater will be the stimulus to perseverance in good conduct.

The next class to these should be Jummadars at Rs. 30 each, or perhaps it would be better to have these also in two classes of thirty-two Rupees, and twenty-eight Rupees each.

Below them again, should be Duffadars in two divisions of twenty-four and twenty Rupees, both these classes of officers to be mounted, having command over the general body of Police officers, consisting of about twenty per cent. of Suwars at Rs. 16 each, twenty per cent. of Burkundazes at Rs. 6 each, and the remaining Burkundazes at Rs. 5 each per mensem, posted in proportion to a fixed area.

No rule exists here in any way founded on experience, whereby to form an estimate

for posting these Police Officers, the system, however, could not be far wrong, that, with reference to diversity of manners, in this country would afford double the number that is required in England, in extent of area of each man's charge.

The report on the constabulary force published in 1839, shews the average there, to be one constable to 4,403 acres. But considering the extent of ground that is included in Bengal as proportioned to the reputed amount of its inhabitants, and the various other circumstances that justify a less extensive jurisdiction here, it may be best to take as the basis of calculation, as I said before, only half this extent of beat to each police officer,—say 2,200 acres per man.

Now the thirty-two districts, under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Police, are computed to cover 70,752,320 acres, which would at this calculation give 32,160 men as the police force of Bengal. But to allow for contingencies, and for additional strength being occasionally directed to particular spots, to quell commotions, or for the extirpation of any local gangs of depredators that may appear, a further ten per cent. might be allowed: and another ten per cent. again should be added to do duty, in lieu of the present guard for station service, with the Judge, Collector, Magistrate, &c. This additional twenty per cent. making the whole force to consist of 38,592 men over whom there should be one Duffadar for every ten men, and one Jummadar to two Duffadars.

The expence of supporting this establishment would consequently be the following, supposing Mr. Halliday's plan of doubling to be adopted as I imagine it will be—

914	Inspectors.			
	228—1st Class, .	at 120 ...	Rs. 3,28,320	
	228—2d ditto, .	100 ...	„ 2,73,600	
	458—3d ditto, .	75 ...	„ 4,00,200	
				10,02,120
1,930	Jummadars,			
	965—1st Class, ...	at 32	Rs. 3,57,360	
	965—2d ditto, ...	28	„ 3,24,240	
				6,81,600
3,860	Duffadars,			
	1930—1st Class, ...	at 24	Rs. 5,55,840	
	1930—2d ditto, ...	20	„ 4,63,200	
				10,19,040
6,704	Native Officers, ...		... Rs.	27,02,760
7,718	Suwars, ...	at 16	Rs. 14,81,856	
7,719	Burkundazes, ...	„ 6	„ 6,55,768	
23,155	Ditto, ...	„ 5	„ 13,89,300	
38,592	Subordinate Police Officers,		.. Rs.	34,26,924
45,296	Total men, costing, ...		... Rs.	61,29,684
	Contingencies, ...		... „	25,000
	Superintending Establishment,		... „	3,92,088
			Total,...Rs.	65,46,772

It would however add greatly to the efficiency of this system if a divisional Superintendent were added over every eight zillahs at consolidated allowances of Rs. 1,500 per mensem, making an addition on this account of Rs. 72,000 per annum, and thus raising the whole annual expense to Rs. 66,18,772; to meet which there are the following means at disposal,

Present Police paid by Government, ...	Rs.	6,25,880
Station Guards, ...	„	82,176
Superintendent of Police, ...	„	70,488
Cess levied from the ryots by the present Chokeedars fully, ...	„	107,00,544
	Rs.	114,79,088

leaving a balance unappropriated of Rs. 48,60,316, and requiring therefore from the people a contribution of Rs. 58,40,228, in lieu of the enormous amount now shewn to be obtained, and substituting for a demand of Rs. 2-2-8 from each family, of six individuals of the poor alone, a cess of Rs. 1-2-8 equally distributed among rich and poor. Or even should the Government withdraw their support altogether, as under such circumstances of improvement it reasonably might, the saving to people would still be 38½ per cent., on what it is known they now pay.

The conclusion to be drawn therefore from these remarks and calculations is clearly, that there can be no just grounds of complaint against any alteration made in the existing system on such principles; that this so necessary a reform, whilst it secured efficiency, would also cause the weight of the Chokeedaree tax, to be equally distributed among all classes instead of being, as now, a burden laid on the poor alone; and that in its amount, as compared to what is at present taken in the aggregate, it would be a boon of nearly 40 per cent. in amount; rendered indeed, by equal distribution a much greater gain to the poor man. Effects, any one of which, it is considered, would be enough to secure support from a liberal Government, consulting the welfare and happiness of the people under its dominion, and I therefore, my Lord, feel the less hesitation in tendering these memoranda to your notice.

I have the honor to be, with due respect,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble servant,

G. T. FRED. SPEEDE.

Calcutta, 10*th Aug.* 1840.

N. B.—The author has thought it advisable to make the above form an appendix to the foregoing work, as it embodies all that his own experience and research led to believe necessary to form a sufficient reform, more required it is well known in the executive than the Judicial Police, which with such support might well do without much addition, converting "Deputy Magistrates" into "Superintendents of Police."

In connection with the subject of Criminal Statistics, the following will also be considered of some interest, being extracted from a report made to Government, and compiled from correspondence in the office of the Superintendent of Police, Lower Provinces, entitled

"*General Digest of, and remarks on, the replies to Circular No.* 9 *of* 1838, *regarding the Police and its Establishments in Bengal,*"

SUBMITTED TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE EARL AUCKLAND, BY THE AUTHOR.

Preface.

When I first beheld the Circular No. 9 of 1838, I became satisfied that the information which would be supplied by the replies to its queries might prove of vast importance at the present crisis, when the attention of the Government has been so especially directed to the state of the Police in the Lower Provinces, by the return of the Committee appointed to report therein, and by the evidence, &c. taken before it; as well as by the apparent necessity for some measures of improvement in that Department, to ameliorate the condition of the people inhabiting this vast empire. It so happened that these queries had been issued to more than one Magistrate before they passed into my hands; or I should have suggested one or two trifling alterations, that might have tended to greater accuracy of detail in the replies.

On another occasion, when I had the honor of memorializing the late Deputy Governor of Bengal, on my own case, I strongly urged the importance of these documents and the essentiality of the information they contained, being carefully and attentively digested for the use of Government, but Mr. ******** at that time, expressed to me his opinion that a less careful review of them was all they required, and that he did not look upon their careful abstraction and arrangement, as an object of that importance which I appeared to suppose, my own opinion however remained the same; and I leave it to others *now*, to judge how far I was justified in supporting the opinion I had then entertained.

It is however to be observed that the preparation of the present paper, although professedly effected only from the replies to the twenty-three queries accompanying the circular No. 9 of 1838, issued from the office of the Superintendent of Police, Lower Provinces, comprehends literally a vast deal of information never contemplated at the time of proposing them, and consequently not to be found in the communications of the Magistrates with reference to that circular; such, for instance, is the stated numerical strength of the Police and Chokeedaree establishments, included in the digest of the answers to the very first query, as well as the extent and population of the districts, &c. &c. this latter information not having been called for until some time subsequently, when, it occurring to me that the necessity for a greater, or less force in each district must entirely depend upon these particular points, I drafted, and had the sanction of the Superintendent

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of Police to issue a circular No. 32 of 1838 requiring that information; the use I have made of it, will be seen in the digest (perhaps improperly so called) of the replies of the first query, and I flatter myself that it will be there evident that it was not uselessly or thoughtlessly required, being the foundation upon which all theories, to be feasible, must be framed, and whereby alone the details of an efficient Police must be governed, in connexion however, with the extent of crime.

The very slow degrees by which the replies of these queries came to hand caused the preparation of the present paper to be a work of considerable time, often interrupted too by the want of material, which rendered the work of greater difficulty than may appear from its present state; yet even now several Zillahs are not fully included, in consequence of the Mofussil Authorities not having even yet replied to the call. In one instance, however, I am aware that the blame does not altogether attach to the Magistrate, for the reply from the 24-Purgunnahs has been sent, but is lost in the Office of the Superintendent: considering this Zillah to be very important, and the Superintendent being absent, at the time, from Calcutta, I more than once made application by *letter,* for access to, or a copy of this document, this was in August and September last, yet up to this moment I have not been honored with even a reply,* as courtesy alone bid me to expect, to my application; thus it will be apparent that I have had no few difficulties to contend against, and if the papers now submitted be less perfect than could have been wished, I may in all fairness be exculpated from any share in their deficiency of affording the fullest information desired.

I have thought it advisable to take up the queries in the same order they stand in the roll, attached to the circular, submitting each, with the replies thereto, as a distinct question, and disposing of each, separately, a mode of viewing them which I have as far as possible preserved throughout, even at the expence of occasional repetitions of the same arguments, which however I have avoided as much as was in my power, consistently with this arrangement.

December 30th, 1838.

QUERY FIRST.

What is the state of your District and of the Police?

PATNA.

Population.

The district is divided into two portions; the city and the Mofussil, the former containing 35,524 houses, with a population of 2,84,132, and the latter comprizing an extent of 1,960 square miles, bounded within a breadth of 70 miles and a length of 28 miles, with 5,61,658 inhabitants, making the total population of the district 8,45,790.

* I have partially supplied its place from the evidence, &c.

Police force.

The Police force to control this population consists of—

Thannadars	In the City	13	
,,	In the Mofussil	9	
		——	22
Mohurirs	In the City	12	
,,	In the Mofussil	9	
		——	21
Jumadars	In the City	12	
,,	In the Mofussil	6	
		——	18
Burkandoses	In the City	279	
,,	In the Mofussil	193	
		——	472
Chokeedars	In the City	667	
,,	In the Mofussil	2,891	
		——	3,558
	Total		4,091

besides 26 Phareedars, a Burkandos guard of 71 men for ordinary purposes, and an extra guard for working the prisoners of 123 in number.

City Watch.

Four to five Chokeedars in the city are placed under one burkandos, to whom it is assigned to watch within certain limits; these are subdivided into three watches, and are visited alternately by the Darogah, the Mohurrir or the Jumadar, besides being liable to a visit from the Kote Gusht, of whom there are two.

State of Crime.

In the city the inhabitants are industrious and extensive traffickers. The prevailing crime is simple burglary, facilitated by the ready shelter offered to the house breaker in the numerous lanes and small gardens. The impression of the Magistrate, grounded on evidence before him, is that these burglaries are effected by men unacquainted with the houses they rob, or the locality of the property they seek, giving grounds for the supposition that the burglars are maintained by some receivers of stolen property; simple thefts occasionally occur, but the perpetrators are generally apprehended.

In the Mofussil the people are mostly poor, needy, and uncivilized, and in this last year owing to the scarcity of rain, worse off than usual, whence numerous petty pilferings, hardly to be denominated "theft," have occurred. No crime is prevalent, for even gang

Robberies and Dakoitee are infrequent. I subjoin a general comparative statement of crimes in the three years from 1824 to 1826 and from 1834 to 1836:—

Years.	Dakoitee.	Highway Robbery.	Burglary.	Theft.	Affray.	Total.
1824..............	1	1	65	83	0	150
1825..............	0	4	128	166	2	300
1826..............	0	1	184	184	3	372
	1	6	377	433	5	822
1834..............	5	2	344	153	3	507
1835..............	1	3	330	173	2	509
1836..............	0	3	523	227	1	754
	6	8	1,197	553	6	1,770

BEHAR.

The extent of this district is said to be about 1,196 "British statute" (query *square*) miles.

Population.

The Population amounts to 807,924.

Police force.

The Police force to control this district consists of—

Thannadars	9
Mohurirs	9
Jumadars	14
Burkandoses	183
Chokeedars	6,425
Total.........	6,640

besides 38 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

Dakoitee formerly so prevalent in the district has much diminished, as well also other heinous offences, though much remains to be done to produce a thorough reform. The great preventions to which are found, in the neglect of the Police Thannadars, in its having been a common practice to omit the mention of penalty in the bail Bonds; in the assuming undue authority on the part of the Police Officers by levying unauthorized fines, for trespass of cattle; in the Thannadars deputing their own dependants to act as Burkandoses; and in the *unduly* placing Muzkoree peons over individuals, &c. These practices being now put a stop to, a more wholesome state of affairs may be anticipated.

SHAHABAD.
Extent and Population

The extent of this district is 3,956 square miles, containing a population amounting to 961,924 souls.

Police force.

The Police force consists of—

Thannadars	11
Mohurirs	11
Jumadars	15
Burkandoses	168
Chokeedars	4,873
Total	5,078

State of Crime.

It is believed to admit of a fair comparison with other districts in regard to crimes. The more heinous offences of murder, dakoitee, highway robbery, burglary, and theft attended with violence are not of frequent occurrence, but, petty thefts and burglaries, with cattle stealing, are numerous; affrays too are more frequent than can be wished, arising from the number of Rajpoots and Brahmins, but they are on the decrease. Arson occasionally occurs, and perjury abounds as in most of the Mofussil Courts.

SARUN.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of the district is in area 2,520 square miles, and its population comprises 923,872 souls.

Police force.

The Police force consists of—

Thannadars	11	
Mohurirs	12	
Jumadars	11	
Burkandoses	112	
Chokeedars	4,026	This is estimated on the other Zillahs, no return having been made.
Total	4,172	

Of the character of the Police and of the state of crime, the Magistrate affords no information, he merely says in reply to this query "*comparatively* speaking I believe both the Police, and district to be in an orderly and peaceful state, but as I may be supposed to be interested in offering this opinion, I would suggest that a reference be made to the Sessions Judge, or Commissioner on this head."

SURKAR CHUMPARUN.
Extent, and Population.

This newly formed Joint Magistracy is in extent from east to west eighty-two miles, and from north to south about forty-six miles, say about 2,515 square miles in area; with a population of 4,08,560.

Police force.

Its Police force at present consists of—

Thannadars	8
Mohurirs	8
Jumadars	8
Burkandoses	80
Chokeedars	2,772
Total	2,876

There appears to have been little or no control over the Police until Chumparun was erected into a Joint Magistracy, on account of the great distance between the Thannadars, and the Sudder Station; but the Joint Magistrate expresses himself satisfied with the manner their duties have been performed since he has joined the station.

State of Crime.

He says nothing of the state of crime, but merely refers to the swarms of Dôme vagrants infesting the Turace, and the thieves on the banks of the Gunduk.

POORNEAH.

Extent, and Population.

This district is an extent from east to west 108 miles, and from north to south 100 miles, containing it is computed 10,800 square miles in area. Its population amounts to 16,02,902 souls.

Police force.

The Police force is:—

Thannadars	14
Mohurirs	16
Jumadars	24
Burkandoses	295
Chokeedars	9,665
Total	10,014

Besides 163 Phareedars. Of their efficiency the Magistrate says, that from being of a low class, and, from the unhealthiness of the district keeping away fit men, they are not in the highest state; add to this the frequent change of Magistrates, who take with them to other districts such Darogahs, &c. as they approve, and throw their successors on chance for new Officers.

State of Crime.

This district *is not deemed* in a worse state *than its neighbours;* though murders are of frequent occurrence: this grievous crime generally originates here in disputes, but it cannot be expected that they should be altogether put down, as the vicinity of the Nepal territory affords such criminals shelter and encouragement; theft also is prevalent.

BHAGULPORE.
Extent, and Population.
Police force.

Its extent is about 9,600 square miles, and the population consists of about 2,000,000.

The Police force is—

Thannadars	13
Mohurirs	19
Jumadars	26
Burkandoses	243
Chokeedars	3,299
Total	3,600

Besides 46 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

The district is comparatively tranquil and free from crime; especially when it is considered that the roads are so frequently, through uninhabited jungles, affording great facility to high-way robbery. Dakoitee is on the decrease, in 1835 there were thirteen cases, in 1836 three cases, and in 1837 twelve cases, but since July 1837 only one case has occurred.

MONGHYR.
Extent, and Population.
Police force.

Being about 4,166 square miles in extent, it contains about 866,520 souls.

The Police force of this Joint Magistracy is—

Thannadars	9
Mohurirs	9
Jumadars	11
Burkandoses	128
Chokeedars	3,130
Total	3,287

with 25 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

No reply to these queries has been yet received from the Joint Magistrate.

TIRHOOT.
Extent.

The Magistrate has furnished in reply to this query a very full and satisfactory account of the district. He states that the extent from the extremes, east and west, is 128 miles, and from north to south is eighty miles; and he estimates the jurisdiction at upwards of 10,000 square miles, whilst its population is computed at 1,510,427 souls.

Population.

Police force.

The Police force of the district is—

Thannadars	16
Mohurirs	16
Jumadars	24
Burkandoses	255
Chokeedars	8,649
Total	8,960

State of Crime.

The Magistrate furnishes the information regarding the state of crime Thannah by Thannah. In Mozufferpore Thannah jurisdiction, (the Sudder station,) he states simple affray to be frequent, in consequence of the small portions into which the land is sub-divided; that burglary and theft, the only other crimes prevailing, have considerably decreased under the provisions made for their suppression. In the jurisdiction of Thannah Kurnoul, twenty miles to the westward of the Sudder station, and of Thannah Lalgunj, twenty miles south by west of the same, highway robbery, which used to be of frequent occurrence, owing to the great traffic consequent on the meeting of the high roads from Chuprah, Patna, Nepal, and Betteeah, has much decreased since the posting of an Assistant to the Superintendent for suppression of Thuggee at Chuprah. The byparees however returning from the bazars and hauts, held near the Chuprah boundary, are still frequently waylaid and robbed. The proximity also to the Chuprah district, where there are hordes of dômes and goalahs to convey the animals across the borders, causes cattle stealing to prevail. In Thannahs Kuttra, sixteen miles to be north east, Mootheepore, sixty-four miles east by north, and Mahooha, twenty miles south from the Sudder station, no particular crimes prevail; in the last petty thefts and burglaries are most frequent, and in the first cattle trespasses are the chief grounds of complaint. In the jurisdiction of Thannah Hajeepore, thirty-two miles south of the Sudder station, its being infested by a set of lawless Rajpoots as well as the frequency of change in the boundaries, caused by the alteration in the course of the river, causes affrays to prevail. Dulsing Saraee jurisdiction, forty miles south-east of the Sudder station, has the majority of complaints from it, occasioned by trespass of cattle. The outpost of Tajpore was established on account of the prevalence of burglary and theft. To the jurisdiction of Thannah Nugur Bussee, thirty-two miles east of the station, are brought great numbers of cattle to graze in its pasturage and jungles, whence cattle stealing is of frequent occurrence, disputes for boundary are also common. Thannah Durbungha, situated in a large town of that name, containing about 100,000 of souls, is noted for the frequent broils and petty disputes occurring therein, having their rise in the extensive

distilleries of Taurree; thefts and burglaries too are common. In Thannah Bhowara, forty-eight miles north east of Mozufferpore, burglaries, thefts and cattle stealing are the prevalent crimes; the first arising chiefly, it is supposed, from the insecure huts of reeds used in that part of the country, the vicinity of the Nepal territory also encourages cattle stealing, Thannah Briheera was formerly noted for the prevalence of Thuggee, but the exertions of the superintendent for its suppression has put a stop to that crime; it is forty-eight miles east by north from the Sudder Station. In Thannah Jhalla, twenty-eight miles, and Thannah Khujowlee, sixty miles by east from the station, indigo disputes are frequent, also complaints of the trespass of cattle, with a few cases of cattle stealing. The proximity of Thannah Sapoul, eighty miles east of the Sudder Station, to the Nepal territory, as well as to the district of Poorneah cause cattle stealing to be frequent there, as are also burglaries, and from the same cause boundary disputes. These last are increased by the tyrannical disposition of the Rajpoots, its chief inhabitants, whose oppressions go unpunished on account of the extreme poverty and subjection under which they keep their ryotts, precluding the possibility of their proceeding to such a distance as the Sudder Station (the boundrary is 100 miles from it) to make a complaint, from this cause also combined with its proximity to Nepal and the high road to Poorneah passing through it, thuggee and highway robberies are frequent; twenty-five Thugs were apprehended there during the past year.

Thannah Rega, thirty-four miles north of Mozufferpore on the borders of Chuprah and Nepal, has for its prevailing cause of complaints the trespass of cattle, in consequence of the number of Indigo factories; and the magistrate is of opinion *that the Thannadars should have orders not to pound cattle unless an affray has followed the trespass,* (yet he has been accused of being too favourably disposed to Indigo planters,) I subjoin a comparative view, furnished by the Magistrate, of burglaries and thefts in the years from 1830 to 1833, as contrasted with those occurring from the years 1834 to 1837, as an exhibition of the real state of crime :—

	Burglaries.	Thefts.	Total.
From 1830 to 1833	2,990	1,919	4,909
Average per annum	747½	479¾	1,227¼
From 1834 to 1837	3,849	2,526	6,375
Average per annum	962¼	631½	1,593¾

The last year 1837 however, is much below the average of either period, being only 558 burglaries and 302 thefts, or a total of 860 crimes.

DINAJPORE.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of this district is 4136 square miles, the greatest length being 105 miles, whilst its breadth is 82 miles; and the population is about 22,93,200 persons.

Police force.

The Police force of the district consists of

Thannadars	17
Mohurirs	17
Jumadars	18
Burkandoses	182
Chokeedars	7,470
Total.........	7,704

State of Crime.

The magistrate affords no information on the subject of the state of crime, but exhibits a querulous anxiety to avoid it, adverting to the efficiency and corruption of the Police generally,—other avocations requiring his constant attention,—his never having visited the Thannahs,—and such like excuses. At the same time that he pronounces the district to be in "*as good a state as can be expected*," he concludes his reply, (if so it *can* be called,) with, "But I consider the question by no "means a fair one, and that the state of each district should be judged of by a comparison "with that of others, and by the higher judicial officers." The strong party feeling always found where Mahomedans form the majority of the population, gives rise to frequent broils, and at their festivals to serious riots, as was shown this year, in the necessity for the Magistrate to entertain a large additional force during the Mohurrum. Cattle stealing, the Magistrate also, in other parts of his correspondence, has mentioned as very prevalent in the district.

MALDA.
Extent, and Population.

This district is estimated to contain 3,500 square miles. The population is 4,31,715 souls.

Police force.

The Police force to control them is

Thannadars	8
Mohurirs	8
Jumadars	8
Burkandoses	95
Chokeedars	2,192
Total.........	2,311

State of Crime.

The Joint Magistrate gives a rather favorable report of this district, he states the crimes during the six months, ending with December last, to have been as follows:

26 Burglaries completed.
14 Ditto attempted.
32 Thefts.
3 Dakoitees.

75 Crimes, on an average of 12½ monthly, equalling only 1.56 to each Thannah.

RUNGPORE.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of this district is 6,570 square miles; its population being 12,14,275.

Police force.

The Police strength is as follows:

Thannadars	20
Mohurirs	21
Jumadars	26
Burkandoses	312
Chokeedars	7,594
Total	7,973

with 8 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

This district is improving, and crime diminishing, one Dakoitee only having occurred in 1837, and that without any exaggerating violence, although the frontier position of the district and the neighbouring fastnesses of the Bhotan, Behar, and Gowalpara afford peculiar facilities for this crime. The Police are active, and the Chokeedaree force, (lately furnished with rattles and spears,) prove powerful auxiliaries in preserving a strict surveillance, whereby no stranger can sojourn within the district without being reported.

RAJSHUHAEE.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of this district is about 4,264 square miles. The population is 9,87,678.

Police force.

The force of the Police consists of

Thannadars	10
Mohurirs	10
Jumadars	14
Burkandoses	154
Chokeedars	4,255
Total	4,443

and 13 Pharcedars.

State of Crime.

The Magistrate says, "The state of the district will be best seen by a reference to the half yearly comparative statement for the first six months of the current year, as compared with the corresponding six months of last year, which shew on the whole, a considerable increase of crime during the first six months of the current year, which is attributable to the great scarcity which prevailed in this district during last hot weather." A reference however to the statement referred to, shews the number of crimes. :—

In the first 6 months of		1837	326
Ditto	ditto	1838	255

which would seem to contradict the remarks made by the Magistrate, and reverse its effect by exhibiting a *decrease* of crime, in lieu of an *increase* to the number of 71; the parties concerned however are 57 more in number, but the apprehensions are 139 *less*, making an increase of the criminals remaining at large to the extent of 196; a great evil, calling at least for some enquiry, and certainly going far to contradict the implication made by the Magistrate, that the district is not worse than its neighbours, and fully bearing out his assertion, that the state of the Police calls loudly for improvement, in a rather different manner from what he appears to use it.

Bugoorah
Extent, and Population.

The extreme length of this district is 64 miles, with a breadth extending to 62 miles, comprising an area of 3,963 square miles; and populated by 3,21,000 inhabitants.

Police force.

The force of this district for Police purposes consists of

Thannadars	9	
Mohurirs	9	
Jumadars	9	
Burkandoses	125	
Chokeedars	3,294	Estimated at the average of other Zillahs—no return having been received from this.
Total	3,446	

with 124 Phareedars, called Burkandoses, in the report.

State of Crime.

The acting Joint Magistrate considers the district to be in "fair order," but enters into no particulars, referring to the periodical statements forwarded to Government for proof of its improved state, as compared with previous years.

Pubna.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of this Joint Magistracy is stated at an extreme length of 70 miles, and its greatest breadth 60 miles, being about an area of 3,324 square miles, and it has a population of about 5,98,573 souls.

Police force.

The strength of the Police is—

Thannadars	9
Mohurirs	9
Jumadars	10
Burkandoses	133
Chokeedars	3,255
Total	3,416

State of Crime.

The Officiating Joint Magistrate reports a considerable improvement in this district during the last few years, although originally (from being so distant from magisterial authority, when attached to the Rajshuhaee and Dacca districts) a most lawless part of the country; besides this the frequent changes that have occurred in the office of Joint Magistrate have been very injurious to its welfare, and to the efficiency of the police. In addition to these acknowledged disadvantages the Omlah here do not appear so trustworthy as can be desired, as the following case will show:—Mr. C— an European indigo planter, had a disagreement with one M. R— a native indigo planter of Muttra, in Jessore, whose factory was built close to Mr. C—s' subsequently to the repeal of orders fixing the limits for erection of new Factories, which form encroachments on old established works. M. R— cut certain plant by force of numbers, the produce of seed sown by Mr. C—'s servants on lands contracted by the Ryotts to his factory. Mr. C— sent a surdar in his employ with one or two koolees, to ascertain whether such had been the case, the man found a large body of men, armed with Soorkees, or Renchas (a sort of javelin) and clad in leather as is common among fighting men: these ruffians made an immediate attack on the poor surdar, and literally *cut him to pieces.* Mr. Allen took the depositions of several witnesses to this effect, as he well remembers, and had them duly attested, in his presence, the papers were then deposited in a conspicuous place on his desk in the Kutcheree, a delay was made of several days in producing other witnesses, stated to be necessary for the defence, and when they were brought before him it was discovered that the depositions, previously taken, had been stolen from off his desk, and the witnesses when called upon to redepose gave evidence in direct opposition to what Mr. Allen well recollected they had previously stated; and thus it is feared have effectually prevented the conviction of such heinous offenders, it is possible that this evidently corrupt condition of *some* among the omlah may be owing to some remnants of the connexions of the late Nazir, who was dismissed for embezzlement remaining yet in the office, and possessing a kindred spirit; it is very clear however, from the fact of papers being so openly abstracted from the Court that something is wrong; and that some of its attacks require to be weeded out, for all progress towards improvement must be checked unless scrutiny be made, and a better state of things secured.

MOORSHEDABAD.
Extent, and Population.
Police force.

Its extent is about 4,235 square miles, the population is 969,447 souls.

The Police force consists of—

Thannadars	36
Mohurirs	37
Jumadars	60
Burkandoses	724
Chokeedars	3,598
Total	4,455

besides 160 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

The return from this zillah has not yet been received from the Magistrate, but Mr. Elliott has been kind enough to afford me personally, some information with respect to all these queries. Burglaries are unusual, and altogether the state of the district is considered *fully equal to these in its neighbourhood.* The Police are bad, but it would be difficult, says the Magistrate, to find better. The following shews the state of crime in the district as compared with a like period five years ago:

	Murder.	Dokoitee.	Highway robbery.	Burglary.	Thefts, &c.	Assaults.	Miscellaneous	Total.
In the 1st six months of 1833	2	28	0	6	17	14	31	93
Ditto ditto ditto 1838	3	10	2	22	37	5	391	470

BEERBHOOM.
Extent, and Population.
Police force.

The extent of the district is from North-West to South East 120 miles, and from North-East to South-West 85 miles containing 3,850 square miles, and its estimated population is about 15,80,665.

The strength of the Police in this district is—

Thannadars	18
Mohurirs	18
Jumadars	19
Burkandoses	257
Chokeedars	13,881
Total	14,193

together with 89 Phareedars.

Up to 1833, this district, in consequence of its being interpersed with forests and bordering on the Jungle Mehauls, was very subject to Dakoitee; but this was checked by Mr. Patton having obliged all bad characters, and Tikorahs (men of a low caste) to sleep together, under the surveillance of the watch, and the Ryotts; as well as ordering the Munduls and Ryotts to go the rounds with the Chokeedars at night. The Magistrate considers however, that these rules are oppressive and open to much abuse, but he is unwilling to alter them as crime generally has decreasd since their adoption.

MYMUNSING.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of the district is 5,025 square miles, having a population of about 16,34,183 persons.

Police force.

The Police force of the Mymensing zillah is—

Thannadars	13
Mohurirs	15
Jumadars	20
Burkandoses	172
Chokeedars	5,787
Total	6,027

with 9 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

The Officiating Magistrate gives no actual reply to this part of the question, merely observing that the state of the district "is not so good as it would have been had not the offices of Magistrate and Collector been placed in the hands of one individual, whose hands are two much tied to enable him to look after it sufficiently."

DACCA.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of the district is about 2,400 square miles, the population of which is 5,42,540.

Police force.

The strength of the Police is—

Thannadars	20
Mohurirs	22
Jumadars	22
Burkandoses	247
Chokeedars	2,746
Total	3,057

together with 20 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

The state of the district is said by the Magistrate "*to be good, speaking* comparatively."

FURREEDPORE.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of the district comprises about 4,500 square miles, which are peopled by 5,56,949 souls.

Police force.

The Police strength consists of—

Thannadars	11
Mohurirs	14
Jumadars	12
Burkandoses	150
Chokeedars	2,667
Total	2,854

State of crime.

The district, says the Joint Magistrate, is in a much better state than in former days affrays are of less frequent occurrence and with regard to Dakoitees, only thirteen have occurred during the last three years; but as the Police Committee is sitting, he conceives no details are required from him.

SYLHET.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of Sylhet is 5,550 square miles, in which the population is not known accurately, the Magistrate fearing "*oppression may be used in making a census,*" but it is computed at 5,00,000 by other authorities.

Police force.

The Police force of the district consists of—

Thannadars	15
Mohurirs	16
Jumadars	18
Burkandoses	200
Chokeedars	3,146
Total	3,395

State of Crime.

On the subject of the state of crime the Magistrate gives no information, his reply to the question being—"This is a most comprehensive question, but as it is put generally, I may reply similarly that the district is in a state of but *moderate* prosperity, and the Police is *moderately* good."

BACKERGUNJ.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of the Backergunge district in length 100 miles and in breadth 60, say about 4,750 square miles; its population is 737,765.

Police force.

The district is protected by a Police force of—

Thannadars	13
Mohurirs	20
Jumadars	13
Burkandoses	183
Chokeedars	2,799
Total	3,028

and 35 Phareedars.

State of Crime

The district Police is pronounced by the Acting Magistrate to be as efficient as could be expected, considering the evils of an inefficient village watch, an inadequate agency for the control of the Mofussil Police, the want of co-operation on the part of the Landholders, and the want of an establishment of boats; until these evils be remedied no system can, he thinks, be effective, no exertions of a Magistrate successful. The Acting Magistrate does not conceive the state of the Police is much affected by the corruption of the Darogahs; at the same time he admits that their extortion and oppression is the greatest of evils, which, he says, have nothing to do with the system but are the growth of centuries, only to be eradicated by the moral and physical improvement of the people who keep it up. Its prevalence too he greatly attributes to the want of a local establishment, as that greatly increases the expences ot the Darogahs, to meet which their salaries are inadequate. The prevailing crimes are; 1st, *Murder*, generally from jealousy and unpremeditated, the prevention of which must be found in an improvement of the people themselves, not of the Police; 2nd, *Affray* and *Assault*, they are on the decline, consequent on the prompt and vigorous measures adopted, and the severe punishments inflicted; 3rd, *Burglary*, partly no doubt in consequence of Regulation II. of 1832, partly from the natural apathy of the people, and the expence of prosecutions, partly too from the corruption of the village watch. This last crime, however, is on the decline as the Magistrate has discovered and broken up many gangs on the Rivers, particularly near the Soonderbuns; 4th, *River* theft; also, from the same causes as the last mentioned, on the decline; the numerous nullahs greatly facilitate this crime, and the unwillingness of travellers to delay their journey for the purpose of making complaints. The acting Magistrate adds that the frequency of this crime proves that an establishment of boats is indispensable.

TIPPERAH.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of Tipperah is estimated at 4,387 square miles, with a population of 806,950 souls.

Police force.

The strength of the Police in this district is—

Thannadars	11
Mohurirs	12
Jumadars	12
Burkandoses	120
Chokeedars	2,842
Total	2,997

besides 18 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

Of the state of crime in the district, the Acting Magistrate only says that "it is at present in a quiet state, and heinous offences are few."

NOAKOLLEE
Extent. and Population.

The extent of the district is 3,000 square miles, with a population of 4,33,094 inhabitants.

Police force

The police force amounts to—

Thannadars	9
Mohurirs	10
Jumadars	10
Burkandoses	102
Chokeedars	1,761
Total	1,898

State of Crime.

The periodical statements tend to shew that the district is in tolerable order, and that heinous crimes are on the decrease, but the Police is not so efficient as could be wished, partly attributable to the frequent changes in the Joint Magistracy.

HOOGLEE.
Extent. and Population

The extent of the district is 2,509 square miles. The entire population of which amounts to 1,508,843.—

Police force

The Police force numbers—

Thannadars	18
Mohurirs	19
Jumadars	36
Burkandoses	367
Chokeedars	9,559
Total	9,999

besides 475 Phareedars.—In Mr. Samuell's report to the Nizamut Adawlut there are set down only 8,750 Chowkeedars, and 197 Phareedars, but these are here inserted from a more recent return.

State of Crime.

The Magistrate gives a very lucid and interesting detail of the district, which he describes as highly fertile and prosperous. The Burkandoses are distributed through the district, each having six or eight villages under him, a few only being retained with the Darogah at the Thannah. This Magistrate also like one preceding, looks at the great extent of river navigation as a fertile source of crime, besides which as a great encouragement thereto, he points out the belt of jungle to the west and south of the district, and the proximity of so many foreign jurisdictions. Calcutta, (though why called foreign I know not) Chandernagore and Serampore, three of them possessing laws and regulations differing from those of the district, and at variance with each other.

Add to these the usual grievances of the great extent of jurisdiction, the indolence and corruption of the police, and a total want of public or private spirit in the inhabitants, and you have a summary of the observations made by the Magistrate.

The chiefly prevailing crime is Dakoitee, for which the jurisdiction of the Byedpattee Thannah, called by Mr. Samuell's one of the most populous and containing "610 souls to a square mile," but which however is very little more than the general average of the district, has infinitely the worst reputation; accounted for in its local situation south of the French settlement of Chandernagore, Gherettee belonging to the same nation, a little below, being within its boundaries; and North of the Serampore Government subject to the Danes; and with Barrackpore, and its vicinity, filled with bad characters, on the opposite banks of the river; which circumstances all contribute to render the tracing of stolen property exceedingly difficult. The Thannahs Benipore, Bansbareeah, and Kotrah on the river, with Chundakona, on the border of the Midnapore jungles, are also noted for this crime, although it is hoped that the frequent convictions lately occurring have checked it considerably, yet no effectual improvement can be expected until some heavier penalty is inflicted on the receivers of stolen goods, who are the great encouragers of crime.

As is believed to be the case throughout Bengal, thefts and burglaries are frequent, owing to the great exposure of property without defence.

Murders, in nine cases out of ten, arise from jealousy, or sudden passion; in which cases the Police can do nothing in prevention, although they have proved themselves successful in the apprehension of the criminals.

Highway robberies are rarely heard of.

The Magistrate complains greatly of the want of sufficient superintendence over the Police, and no less so, of the irregular jurisdictions of the several Thannahs, which he considers a great source of the inefficient state of the Police generally.

BURDWAN.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of the district is 3,776 square miles, with a population of 334,692 souls.

Police force.

The Police of Burdwan consists of—

Thannadars	10
Mohurirs	12
Jumadars	14
Burkandoses	148
Chokeedars	8,177
Total	8,361

together with 47 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

No report has yet been received from the Acting Magistrate.

BANKOORAH.
Extent, and Population
Police force.

The extent of this Joint-Magistracy is 2,900 square miles, and its population 1,45,000.

The Police force consists of—

Thannadars	12
Mohurirs	12
Jumadars	15
Burkandoses	149
Chokeedars	5,394
Total	5,582

Besides 61 Phareedars, in addition to which are 3,362 Ghatwals, partially entrusted with Police duties.

State of Crime.

No reply has been received as yet to these queries.

24-PERGUNNAHS.
Extent, and Population.
Police force

This zillah covers 2,296 square miles in extent, and its population is 7,22,814 souls.

The force of the Police is—

Thannadars	16
Mohurirs	18
Jumadars	54
Burkandoses	431
Chokeedars	3,358
Total	3,877

together with 42 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

The reply to this Circular has been lost in the office of the Superintendent of Police.

BARASET.
Extent, and Population.
Police force.

The extent of the Baraset district is computed at 3,588 square miles, populated by 3,36,743 souls.

Its force, in numerical strength, comprehends—

Thannadars	6
Mohurirs	6
Jumadars	11
Burkandoses	127
Chokeedars	2,001
Total	2,151

And 57 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

The Joint-Magistrate does not consider his district to be in a very efficient state, he complains of the concealment of crimes, especially at the more remote Thannahs, by the Police, attributable to the smallness of their pay, throwing temptation too much in their way.

JESSORE.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of Jessore is in length 110 miles, with a breadth of 54 miles, being an area of 5,940 square miles, and its inhabitants are computed at 893,038 souls.

Police force.

The strength of the Police is in this district—

Thannadars	12
Mohurirs	12
Jumadars	13
Burkandoses	148
Chokeedars	4,042
Total	4,227

State of Crime.

The state of this district is described by the Magistrate as satisfactory, heinous offences, especially Dakoitee, occurring much less, with oppression in the interior, than might be expected from the extensive jurisdiction, the number of Indigo planters, and the well known turbulent and quarrelsome disposition of the inhabitants.

The Police, as elsewhere, are inefficient, the Doragahs possessing little energy, and totally void of principle, but this is stated to be the fault of the system, not chargeable to any individuals.

NUDDEA.
Extent, and Population.

The extent of the district of Nuddea is 5,400 square miles, and the population is computed at 836,900 souls.

Police force.

The Police force consists of—

Thannadars	16
Mohurirs	15
Jumadars	19
Burkandoses	201
Chokeedars	3,758
Total	4,009

State of Crime.

The reply of the Magistrate to this question is best given in full, "Dakoitee prevails, and occasional affrays, regarding Indigo cultivation and Bazars, the Police I consider to be corrupt, and not a few of the heads of them under

the pay of influential zemindars and planters; sufficient care has not been taken in the selection of Thannah Burkundoses."

A statement of crimes for five years is subjoined:—

	Murder, Homicide, &c.	Dakoitee.	Highway robbery.	Burglary.	Thefts.	Affrays.	Assaults.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
1833	5	7	1	105	77	9	9	266	479
1834	6	18	0	100	85	15	13	206	443
1835	11	16	1	150	104	7	28	372	689
1836	11	14	0	122	91	0	14	412	664
1837	7	11	2	137	86	1	7	347	598
Total	40	66	4	614	443	32	71	1,603	2,873

MIDNAPORE. Extent, and Population.

The extent of Midnapore is estimated at 6,782 square miles, and its population is computed at 13,63,228, which however is considered rather under than above the mark.

Police force.

For this the Police strength is—

Thannadars..	23
Mohurirs	22
Jumadars..	24
Burkandoses	255
Chokeedars	4,640
Total.........	4,964

besides 667 Phareedars.

State of Crime.

Murders, Dakoitees, Burglaries, and Thefts, the Magistrate reports, prevail to a considerable extent, whilst the Police is inefficient from the extensive jurisdiction, making the duties too heavy to allow of proper supervision, or a prompt attention to such cases as are brought forward.

REMARKS

In the varying and irregular distribution of the Police force now existent, as exhibited above, it is difficult to know where to commence comment, when all must appear to be censure, or where to point out the steps for correction of the evils so cryingly demanded, it must however strike every one who looks at these records, that a most desultory and loose mode of framing the establishments in the several zillahs must have been pursued, and that this part of the subject should take the lead in the notice I am about to enter upon of these replies. To exhibit this extraordinary variation in the clearest possible view, I have, with no small labor, drawn up from the datâ furnished, the accompanying statements of Police Officers, &c., &c., with the proportionate averages of extent of jurisdiction, population, villages and cost of establishments, in the thirty-two districts, comprising the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Police in the Lower Provinces, which shews hardly a single instance of a coincidence of proportionate strength of force, of juridical extent, of local population, of numerical amount of the villages ruled, or of cost, either to the state, or to the people.

Establishment.

It requires however a few detailed remarks to point out this discrepancy more clearly, and I shall attempt doing so in the order of the six grand divisions, which I have made in the statement itself. To commence with the number of thannahs placed under each magisterial jurisdiction, their whole number in the thirty-two districts, is 457, which gives an average of 1,428, say for the sake of creating a whole number, 15 to each jurisdiction; of this extent however there are now only two districts, viz. Poorneah of 14 thannahs and Mymunsing of 15; whilst the rest range from a minimum of 6 (Baraset) to a maximum of 36 (Moorshedabad) this first however being a jurisdiction, in which the joint magistrate is also engaged in revenue duties does not afford an accurate comparison, I will therefore take that of Behar, whose magistrate is confined to Foujdaree cases, in which district the number of thannahs amounts to nine. It is a matter for mere mathematical calculation to prove, that if it require the whole attention and services of one individual for management of nine thannahs, that four times that number must be too much for a single individual to conduct with efficiency, and this is the more remarkably displayed in the two that I have selected for comparison, as the thannah jurisdiction of Behar, is only about twelve per cent. more than that of Moorsheda-bad, the one being 118 square miles and the other 113. But I will not dwell upon this point of difference, as it is of less consequence than other branches that will follow; and many there are who would say that the difference of talent, qualification, and experience to be met with in the individuals who might be appointed to fill the magisterial office would suffice to equalise this. Of the thannahs in the several districts, in thirteen they exceed the average, and in seventeen fall short of it.

Magistrate's Jurisdiction. Thannahs.

The next division of my statement shews the Police force of each district in its numerical strength, in this among "Thannah offi-

Police force.

cers are included Darogahs, Mohurirs, Jumadars and Burkandoses, whilst the other column comprises all Phareedars, Chokeedars, Ghatwals, &c. The average number of thannah officers in each district would be about 264 and of Chokeedars, &c. 5,225, the whole numbers being of the latter 167,196, and of the former 8,436, making a total Police force of 175,632 men. It would be hardly fair however to look at the average of the Police force in each district, varying as they naturally do in extent; and, as I have shewn, so exceedingly in the number of the thannahs; I would however beg to draw attention to the vast variance between the Police force to each *thannah* in the several districts, the average of which is 18 thannah officers, and 366 watchmen, in all 384 to every thannah. The former class however range from 13 in Sarun, Surkar Champarun, Tipperah and Noakallee to a maximum of 32 in the twenty-four Purgunnahs: and the latter class varying from 104 in Moorshedabad to 822 in Burdwan, whilst the mean strength exhibits a minimum of 182 Moorshedabad, and a maximum of 841 men in Burdwan to each thannah. In fine, the number of Police thannah officers in *eleven* districts exceed the average, whilst in *nineteen* it falls short of it, leaving two average districts out of the thirty-two districts, viz. Backergunge and Burdwan. The Chokeedars in *seventeen* districts are less than the average, whilst in *fourteen* they exceed, Sarun being the only average district in this respect, viewing therefore the whole Police strength of every description; the result shews not a single average district, but we find 18 districts falling below, and 14 above the average of 384 men, allowing however a range of 20 each way, say from 364 to 404, would include six districts, viz. Sarun, Monghyr, Rungpore, Bagoorah, Mymunsing, and Baraset, and these may therefore be deemed fair average districts in this respect, especially as the accuracy of the reports, furnishing the numerical strength of the Chokeedaree establishment is somewhat doubtful: since I found that the number mentioned to me on a reference to the thannah books at several places, which I visited, and have made myself personally acquainted with, varied considerably from the number reported by the *same* Darogahs, and furnished by the Magistrates to the Superintendent's office. The cause of which I only the other day discovered, by being informed that the reports made to that office, included only such Chokeedars as were actually on duty at the time of making the report, and not including vancancies, existing at the time by death, dismissal, &c., instead of the number which would be the full complement supposing the whole of the situations were, as they ought to be, duly filled up. Often too, these returns are including mere men of straw, nominally borne on the books to satisfy appearances, on the part of the zemindars in reporting to the Magistrates.

Extent of jurisdiction.

The next division leads us to one of the important points of consideration, namely, the area of extent of the Superintendent's jurisdiction and its subdivisions; which subdivisions vary considerably, ranging from 1,196 square miles in Behar to 10,800 in Poorneah, making a total in the thirty-two districts under review of 143,363 square miles, to be divided among 457 thannahs. Regulation

XXII. of 1793, Section 4, assigns as an extent for each thannah, a boundary of ten koss square, this would amount to about 380 square miles, this however, practice has reduced to an average of 314 square miles, an area that would be large indeed to be placed under one Darogah, even were it uniform, but in fact, only one district, and that, the most recently formed one of Surkar-champarun, is, on that average; the majority, viz. eighteen districts, exceeding that extent, whilst thirteen fall short of it, the whole ranging between 89 in Patna, and 771 in Purneah, the proportion of jurisdiction in the former zillah being to each Thannah officer 367 square miles, whilst in the latter it extends over 3094 square miles, or to the whole police strength, including Chowkeedars, to each man a space of 0.47 square miles in Patna, and 1.06 in Poorneah.

The average jurisdiction to each Thannah officer throughout the whole thirty-two districts is 16.99 square miles, whilst that of every watchman comprises a beat of 0.86 square miles. The only other country for which I possess data to form a comparison, is Ireland, and there it appears that the average extent assigned to each Police officer is 3.64 square miles, the sum total comprehending all classes in Bengal, being to each officer less *than one mile* (0.81) and being in a ratio, in this country, of four officers to one in Ireland, although the turbulent and troubled state of that unfortunate country is too well known to need observation.

The extent of space reported as the average of each village is 108 square miles, but I make no remarks on this part of the subject, as it will form matter for consideration, when we come to the number of villages, to which head it more fitly belongs.

Population

The next division of this statement refers to the population of the several districts, which is perhaps the most important branch of the whole, since all regulations of Police, especially in its executive department, should be based on the numerical extent of the people requiring the regulations:—influenced however in a trifling, but very small degree, by the extent of ground occupied by them, and that in the inverse ratio, as the closer a population is congregated together, by association in cities or large towns, the greater is the proportion of crime committed. A theory, which although perhaps like all general rules, subject to some exceptions, is one of almost universal application; and this perhaps may, in some measure, account for the great prevalence of crime in Behar, where the population is 675 to the square mile, and until lately the like result in Patna, where it is 432; whilst the average population does not exceed 207 per square mile. It is with a view to exhibit this fact more clearly that I have added to the statement a column to shew the ratio of population in every square mile in the several districts, although it does not, strictly speaking, belong to the subject under review.

However requisite it may appear in considering the Police of a country to review the amount of population relatively to the extent of area, it is undoubtedly of far greater importance to view the population with reference to itself; as more or less closely congregated in social intercourse, for when the population is scattered, associations for commission

of crime are less frequently formed, and the perpetrators of criminal actions are more liable to detection, than in the dense masses of human beings collected together in towns or cities. Besides this, in cultivated plains, where the inhabitants assemble together in small villages or scattered houses, the property of all is more equalized, and each becomes more dependent on his neighbours for satisfaction of his wants, or the acquisition of his gratifications, the rich and opulent being few, and offering little opportunity of *unpunished* attack :—whilst in cities, men of all classes and ranks, of various degrees of opulence or poverty, are brought together in close contact; temptations are numerous, the gratification of evil passions ready of access, whilst individual character is but little known, and hence, crime naturally increases as population is brought into closer contact. In this view, and in this only, I think should extent of area have weight in assignment of the Police strength, which must therefore be proportionately greater in populous and large cities and towns than elsewhere. Now in the existing state of the Police, it will be seen, by the accompanying statement, that this does not appear to have met that consideration it required, with relative reference to the numerical force of the Police, although it doubtless has influenced the number of Thannahs in some slight degree, as we find that in Patna, in Moorshedabad, and in Dacca, the proportionate population of the Thannah jurisdictions is far short of the average number of 64,270 inhabitants.

The main point however for consideration is, in my opinion, the proportionate Police that can be brought to bear in control of every hundred individuals of the inhabitants, so as to keep each of them so sufficiently within the cognizance and surveillance of the local Police as to *prevent the secret commission of crime;* without, at the same time, allowing it to appear that any one is closely guarded, or interfering with the natural liberty of the subject.

Let me now shew how far this has been regarded in the constitution of the present Police; if we look at the statement contemplating the proportion of the population to each Thannah officer, or to each officer of the Police, as including with these the Chokeedars, Pharcedars, &c. we must be struck with the extraordinary variation between the state of things in one zillah and another, ranging as it does in the first instance from 777 in Bankoorah, to 9,800 in Dinajpore, the former 2,741 below, and the latter 6,282 above the average of 3,518 :—and in the second instance from 16 in Bankoorah to 549 in Bhagulpore, whilst the average is found to be 112, an average however far exceeding the necessities of the case, for the metropolis of London itself, rife as it be with crime, is controlled by a Police force of one to every 336 inhabitants, and the 77,67,401 inhabitants of Ireland are controlled by a Police force of 8;313 men, or an average of one officer to 944 individuals, and surely if this suffice for that disburbed country, a greater average than 112 would, if efficient, be adequate here. It appears however that only five districts fall short of this average, whilst twenty-seven exceed it, and the general view of all leads me to believe that the fittest force to suit all purposes would be nearly three times the present average, or say one Police officer to 300

The watch and police are 4,062, whilst the population by the census of 1831 is 14,74,069.

individuals of the inhabitants; which, at an average of 6 individuals to each house, allowed by many Magistrates as about the average, would be the present assumed rate for Chokeedars of one to 50 houses. At this rate of 300 or under, we now find there are thirty districts, whilst, viz., Bhagulpore with 549, and the 24-Pergunnahs with 484 are in excess.

Villages.

The villages in each district forms the next division; but the returns are so unsatisfactory, and in many instances carry so strongly the character of error on their face, that I shall leave them without comment, letting those who please to form their own estimate of the reported amount, as furnished from the several zillahs, I may however observe that I know, that in many instances single and detached houses have been set down by the Darogahs, in their reports to the Magistrates and the Superintendent of Police, as villages, and hence has their number increased beyond all reasonable supposition.

Cost of Establishment.

I am now led to a view of the financial part of the subject, appearing in the columns, headed "annual cost of the Police strength." It will be seen that I have noted the first column, or cost of Thannahs, as "paid by the state," and it includes the sums on that account, "which pass through the books of Government Treasury," and are all that appear in the public accounts, they form however but a small portion of the actual cost to the country of the Police establishment, considered as a municipal body, for although of the amount paid to, or provided for the Chokeedaree establishments, no more than that small portion levied under Regulation XXXII. of 1816 (scarce amounting to a hundredth part of the whole force) passes through, and appear in, the Government accounts, the portion paid more directly by the people never appearing therein, notwithstanding it reaches nearly ten times the amount paid directly by Government, and is equal to not less than 22 per cent. of the jumma or land assessment of the country, yet this must, in taking a general view of the subject, be allowed its due weight of importance.

It appears then that the sum which the present Police establishment costs, for thannahs and their officers, amounts to Rupees 6,25,880-6 annually, whilst the sum that *legally* ought to be paid to the Chokeedars is Rupees 60,59,856, making a total sum of Rupees 66,85,736-6 every year paid for the protection of the people. To this however must be added Rupees 39,591 annually expended for the river Police, making the sum total Rs. 67,25,328-2 per annum: as however this last mentioned sum is too small to effect the general calculation, and moreover as this branch of the Police forms a separate subject of enquiry, I have not deemed it necessary to include it in this statement.

Viewing this detail in whatever point of light, it is presented the extraordinary diversity of population between the several districts must excite surprise, and this part of the subject exhibits perhaps more than any other division of my statement, the want of uniformity of design in the erection of the present system of Police, for if we consider the cost of each thannah, we shall find it ranges from Rupees 5,341-10-5 in Moorshedabad to Rupees 30,985-5-8 in Burdwan. This however may, in this instance, be partly accounted for

in the vast difference of the Chokeedaree force, as we find in the cost of Thannah officers, only a trifling discrepancy, the latter being about 1,378 Rupees and the former 1,584 rupees for each thannah, and even this difference chiefly arises from contingent charges and outposts consequent on its populous city; but there is no apparent reason for such discrepancy as existing between the two adjoining districts of Jessore (at Rupees 13,555-9-2) and Nuddea (at Rs. 9,688-7-8) or again between this last, and Burdwan, inasmuch as, in the latter case it is unaccountable why the Chokeedars should be so much more numerous there than in other quarters.* The average cost of the whole of the thannahs amounts to Rupees 14,629-9-10, and we find that in all the districts, where there are large and populous cities, as Patna, Moorshedabad, Dacca, and the 24-Pergunnahs, the cost is much lower than in other districts; whilst the number of Chokeedars is below the average; but as this point will form a subject for animadversion in another part of this paper, I shall defer further remark until I take up the eighth query, and passing over the proportionate cost to each village, for the same reason I have already stated, in considering the Police force, I shall proceed to the division, which I deem of the chief importance for contemplation; viz: the proportionate cost of our Police to each individual of the community :—in which I find a most unaccountable disproportion of this burden, as it bears upon the people of one part of the country, and those inhabiting another.

In London it is Rs. 171 0 3.
In Ireland it is Rs. 44 8 10.

The average cost is shewn to be Rupees 22-8-6 to every hundred souls, or about three annas and a half pie each; a sum that is too inconsiderable to be felt by even the poorer classes, miserable as is their state, were it equitably distributed, but how heavily must the cost fall on the poor in Bankoorah, where the demand made must amount, when there is a family, to more than a poor peasant can earn *in eight months*, the proportion being rupees 229-2-4 for every hundred, or *two rupees four annas and eight pie* from each individual, whilst in Bhagulpore the proportion per hundred individuals is only Rs. 7-1-5, or *one anna and one and half pie for every individual.* It may be said that this arises from the greater extent of population in the latter district, it being 208 to the square mile, whilst in Bankoorah it is but 50, but if allowance be made to the fullest proportion on this account, it would only raise the amount in Bhagulpore to four annas and eight pie, just two Rs. less than is now paid in the former place.

With regard to the average we find only two districts (Tirhoot and Dacca) in which it ranges near that amount, of the rest,—seventeen are above the average, and thirteen below it, of these I will not occupy space uselessly by going into detail here, as the statement itself exhibits facts sufficiently to any one disposed to enquire.

Of the cost per square mile I will not say anything, as I consider the expenditure with reference to population as the point of most consequence, the statement exhibiting all that is necessary on this head.

* I since find that this arises from the necessity of employing paid Chokeedars, as those in possession of the Chokeedaree lands refuse to perform duty.

State of Crime

The state of crime is the next subject for consideration in the replies to this first query, but they unfortunately display a looseness of detail, which disappoints the object, as few indeed refer to facts for any confirmation of the opinions they express, and I am therefore prevented from entering into the subject, as I could have wished; especially as, in consequence of the Superintendent of Police having taken the Commissioner's reports for the last several years with him on his tour, I was unable to obtain access to them for the purpose of contrasting the proportionate increase or decrease of crime, as exhibited in the committals in each district, on which every speculation regarding the state of crime must, to be feasible, be founded.

The replies generally admit inefficiency of the Police and a great prevalence of crime; but it appears to me that they also exhibit a desire to shew that the state of the district they report on, is improving, to a degree not altogether warranted by facts, for though many make this admission, only three, viz., those of Rajshuhaee, of Baraset, and of Midnapore, allow that crime has been *lately* on the increase, whilst eighteen assume an actual decrease of crime, in some cases, in direct opposition to the periodical reports. The only districts which afford the means of calculation, are Patna, Tirhoot, Malda, Rajshuhaee, Moorshedabad, and Nuddea; I can only therefore attempt going into the subject with reference to these districts, which certainly exhibit a lamentable increase of crime, even if we admit the supposition held by many that much of the crime formerly committed remained concealed from the Magistrate, and that less escapes detection now than formerly, yet the increase of committals is so great that it cannot fairly be supposed all to arise from this cause, although a large portion, say for instance the half, may be attributed thereto.

Crime in Patna.

Taking the average of three years in Patna, from 1824 to 1826, we find only two cases annually of crimes against the person and 272 of crimes against property in a population of 8,45,790 souls, or a proportion to every thousand of only 0.32. This however in the years 1834 to 1836 has increased to 0.69, being an average of two crimes against the person and five hundred and eighty-eight against the property, of which one thirteenth have been perpetrated by chokeedars; but the great increase here was in the last of these three years 1836, when the crime against property amounted to 753 or 0.88 in a thousand, the principal advance being in the crime of burglary, of which in 1824 there were only 65 cases, whilst in 1836 they amounted to 523. The Magistrate appears aware of the increase of this crime, and supposes gangs to be maintained by certain receivers of stolen goods who made a trade of so doing. It is no new subject of complaint either, for we find it referred to and strongly set forth in Tytler's India some years back, that the receivers of stolen goods too often escape with impunity: the only remedy for which appears to be found, as stated in Colquhoun's Police of the Metropolis of London, in the licensing certain trades, which give cover to the receipt of stolen goods, in great vigilance on the part of the Police officers, and in an uncompromising punishment of the receivers

whenever discovered. But this paper being likely to be extended necessarily to a great length, I will not dilate on this part of the subject, especially as it has been already so ably treated of by the writers on police, whose observations although, with exception to one that I have referred to above, undertaken with reference to the civilized countries of Europe are generally applicable to India.

Crime in Tirhoot.

Of Tirhoot I have the means only of comparing the four years from 1830 to 1833 with those of 1834 to 1837. In the former period the crimes against property amount to an average of one thousand two hundred and twenty-seven annually, in a population of 15,10,427, or in a proportion of 0.81 in a thousand, but this has increased in the latter four years to an average of one thousand five hundred and ninety-four each, or 1.06 per thousand. Here, too, the increase in burglaries has been very great, they amounting in the latter period to 962 annually, and in the former to 747. It is however just to observe that a great improvement has taken place in the last year of the period included in my calculation, viz. 1837, during which only 558 cases of burglary occurred, the average of the three previous years being therefore 1,097; other crimes have also diminished to a very great extent, the whole amount in 1837, being only eight hundred and sixty—(0.56 in one thousand inhabitants,)—whilst that of the three years immediately preceding averaged 1835, (or 1.21 in the thousand,) a vast improvement, which it is to be hoped will at least be equalled if not exceeded by the present year.

Crime in Malda.

The joint Magistrate of Malda furnishes the data only for the second six months, from July to December, of 1837, in which period the crimes in his district amounted only to seventy-five cases out of a population of 431,715, which ratio would give the almost incredibly small proportion of 0.34 in every thousand inhabitants. It is to be observed however that it is well known, though they do not commit their ravages in the Malda jurisdiction, that it is made the retreat of whole gangs of dakoits, and even of thugs who commit their depredations on the river, as well as in Moorshedabad and other neighbouring districts, keeping up in Malda the appearance of mere ryots, who of course are ready to swear to, or become the security for, the respectability and industry of each other; being also very punctual in the payment of their malgoozaree, &c. neither is there a solitary instance of a village so inhabited, for they are numerous, as I am informed by residents, and this may account in a great measure for the small amount of crime committed *in* this district.

Crime in Rajshuhaee.

In Rajshuhaee my only data comprise the first six months of 1837, and the like period in 1838, the former being three hundred and twenty-six in a population of 987,678, or an annual ratio of 0.66 in the thousand, whilst the latter having only two hundred and fifty-five cases in the period noted, would be only 0.25 in the thousand. The benefit however of this decrease is rendered nugatory by the apprehension of criminals as I have before shewn, being so much less than in the

former period, and the consequent greater number of criminals, and bad characters being at large.

Crime in Moorshedabad.

In Moorshedabad the only data are for the first six months of 1833 and a similar period in 1838, which shews for the former sixteen crimes against the person, and fifty-one against property, and for the latter eight against the property in a population of 969,447, making the proportion of crime for 1833 of only 0.13 in a thousand inhabitants, whilst in 1838 it reaches a proportion of 0.16, a state of things, (although it shews a trifling increase,) which if correctly reported speaks highly in favor of the condition of Moorshedabad, as compared with the neighbouring zillahs being below that even of Malda; especially when we look also to the proportionate apprehension of criminals concerned, being in 1833, some 269 out of 1830, or 32 per cent. whilst in 1838 it was 964 out of 1072, or the favorable proportion of 89 per cent. The miscellaneous cases however have greatly increased in the latter period, being three hundred and eighty-nine, against only thirty in 1833 say to a thousand inhabitants, 0.06 in the latter period, but rising to the proportion of 0.80 per thousand in the former, or present time, whence it is clear that the greater part of the magistrate's time at the present day must be taken up with petty miscellaneous cases. It is also to be observed that the increase of crime has been found chiefly in burglary, increasing 266 per cent., and thefts to a ratio of 118 per cent. whilst dakoitee has fallen off about 55 per cent. The average number of persons concerned in each crime is much the same being 12 in 1833 and 13 in 1838.

Crime in Nuddea

The last district for which I have data for calculation is Nuddea;—of this zillah five years are given, and, for the purpose of making the calculation on a fair average, I included the middle year with both the periods, the crimes therefore, from 1833 to 1835 being one hundred and three against the person, and six hundred and sixty-four against property averaging annually, the former thirty-four and the latter two hundred and twenty-one, whilst from 1835 to 1837, they are, against the person eighty-six—and against property seven hundred and thirty-four, shewing an average of twenty-nine of the former, and two hundred and forty-five of the latter. It seems however that the year 1835 exhibits an extraordinary increase of crime above either of these averages, viz. against the person 46, and against property 271, though from what cause does not appear, and I have thought it therefore preferable as a medium of forming a comparative view of the subject, to take only the year 1833 and 1834, when the average annual amount of crimes against the person were twenty-eight, and against property one hundred and ninety-seven, comparing them with the average of 1836 and 1837, shewing against the person twenty and against property two hundred and thirty-two. The former period therefore exhibits a result of 0.27 in a thousand inhabitants, and the latter 0.30. A difference in amount hardly deserving notice, and which is formed chiefly in the number of burglaries, there having been 100 in 1834 and 137 in 1837, whilst affrays and assaults appear almost to have ceased, amounting in the latter year to one of the former, and seven of the latter whilst in 1834 there were 15 affrays and 13 assaults.

In this zillah, as in the last mentioned, the number of miscellaneous cases has greatly increased, the number in 1833 and 1834, being 472, whilst in 1836 and 1837 there were 759. The former being annually 0.28 to the thousand inhabitants, whilst the latter is 0.45. The ratio of apprehensions likewise in Nuddea is highly favorable, for whereas in 1833 out of 1,483 parties concerned only 46 per cent. or 685 were apprehended, in 1837, 2,069 out of 2,799 were apprehended, being 74 *per cent.* the parties to each crime appear in 1833 and 1834 to have averaged twelve in number, whilst in 1836 and 1837 they were twenty, a curious circumstance, when we observe that affrays have almost ceased, and dakoities are the same in both periods, and only to be attributed to the supposition that burglaries and thefts must now be carried on by organized bodies of great number, the first having increased 26 per cent. and the second 9 per cent. a point that appears well worth bringing to the notice of the Magistrate as a subject for present enquiry, and future attention.

Although the variety of local circumstances affecting the state of crime in different countries renders a comparative view of the subject of less use than would at first appear, and, although the want of sufficient data causes such a comparison to be almost impossible in the present sketch, yet it may afford some matter for consideration with the view of leading to further enquiry, if I insert the proportion of crime in one or two other countries, with reference to the ascertained state of the above six districts.

England and Wales.. 22.451 Annually.
Scotland .... 2,711 Ditto.
Ireland .... 21,381 Ditto.

In Ireland we find the enormous extent of crime calculated from the committals noted in the margin from official records to be 2.75 to one thousand inhabitants, whilst Scotland has only 1.14, and England and Wales 1.62. In France, too, where the population is estimated at 32,509,742 the committals to the Courts of Assize amounted in 1832 to 8,237, of which two-thirds were crimes against property, which would shew the very small proportion of 0.26 to every thousand inhabitants. Of the six districts I have noted above, the proportion would be about 0.60 to each thousand inhabitants, there being 3,327 crimes among 5,591,737 of the individual population of these zillahs. A condition which viewed in comparison with our own country may be deemed favorable. With this however I shall conclude the remarks on, and digest of the replies to the first query.

QUERY THIRD.

Do you recommend any alteration in the Thannah and Darogah system, besides increase of pay?

BEHAR. The Magistrate is of opinion, that the existing system under *strict surveillance and control, and with sufficient leisure in the Magistrate for superintendance*, is well adapted to the state of Indian society. Neither does he consider that the mere increase of pay to the Darogahs would render them more efficient, if they be relied on for honesty and activity solely on the score of increased pay.

He considers too that as a reward for good conduct, the appointment to superior posts, in point of emoluments, without too great a degree of responsibility, would prove an advantageous measure.

SHAHABAD. The enhancement of the salaries of the Darogahs will not alone rectify the faults of the system, although it ought to form an essential point in effecting a revised police.

The grades of the existing police are too limited to afford that promotive reward to good conduct, that is desirable, increasing the steps, and keeping up a constant view to promotion would effect much towards improvement. To effect this the Darogah should have sixty Rupees, the Mohurir twenty-five, the Jumadar fifteen, while a Duffadar should be added at eight Rs. and the Burkandoses might receive five, four, and three.

SARUN. The acting Magistrate does not recommend any alteration, but in addition to the present establishment advocates the appointment of police Moonsiffs.

POORNEAH. The acting Magistrate considers the number of thannahs too small, and would double the number, making twenty-eight districts, in lieu of the present fourteen, but for this increase he does not consider that the number of Darogahs need be added to, as the additional thannahs might be placed under the charge of Mohurirs, one Darogah superintending two thannahs.

To these additions he would add three or four European superintendents in each district, with general control over six or seven thannahs each, subordinate to the Magistrate, to whom they should furnish regular reports, and they should be the channel of communication between the Darogahs and the Superintendent of Police; officers well educated and qualified for such situations might be obtained for two hundred and fifty Rupees per mensem, whose appointment would not only render the police an efficient branch of the service, but bring to light a vast amount of crime not now reported, and prevent such frequent escape of criminals, besides protecting the natives from rapacity to the inferior officers.

TIRHOOT. The existing system, the Magistrate considers, is defective, and he would reduce the extent of jurisdiction of each thannah, and increase the number of posts; to which he would add supervisors over every four or five

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thannahs, for which duty perhaps the best qualified men would be active retired native officers of Sepahee regiments, capable of organizing a body of Burkandoses, able in cases of emergency to act in concert; to this he would add to employment of Sepahees of good characters as Jummadars. The supervisors should be empowered to call out the Burkandoses of the thannahs in cases, or for suppression of dakoitee, affrays, &c. The following is the scale and cost of establishment at each thannah:—

Proportion of supervision over four or five Thannahs.................. Rupees	60
Thannadar	30
Jummadar................................	8
20 Burkandoses, at 4 each..............	80
Rupees ...	178

The difference of cost between the present and this proposed establishment might be met by a general Chokeedaree tax all over the country.

DINAJPOOR. The acting Magistrate mentions his having selected his Nazir (against whom by the bye a charge for taking a bribe of two hundred Rupees is now pending, the acting Magistrate having without enquiry imprisoned the party who made the charge, but who was ordered to be released by the Judge, and the case ordered to proceed) from the most efficient and intelligent of his Darogahs whom he deputes to investigate difficult cases, and occasionally to take charge of a thannah where crime was increasing, or a steady able hand was required for a short time, and he thinks a person of higher title and better salary should be placed at the disposal of the Magistrate for such purposes; and he would wish each newly appointed Darogah or Mohurir should be examined by the Superintendent of Police on his periodical visits.

MALDA. The Joint Magistrate would wish to have a Naib Darogah, or a second intelligent Jummadar at each thannah to investigate cases on occasions of emergency, when the Darogahs are employed elsewhere. He considers also that the reports made to the Magistrate are aften very imperfect, and made up by the Darogahs from the verbal statements of Burkandoses, or others whom he has deputed to make enquiries, but he suggests no remedy for this assumed evil.

RUNGPOREE. The acting Magistrate imagines that increase of pay will cause the office of Darogah to be sought for by men of respectability and character.

RAJSHUHAEE. To obtain a more respectable class of men by increase of pay is the first step, and a higher grade should be appointed, having superintendence of five or six thannahs.

BOGOORAH. The acting Joint Magistrate, besides increase of pay, "would recommend the employment of *men* of *known honesty,*" natives if possible.

PUBNA. The acting Magistrate assumes with respect to the present system, that it cannot be denied to have worked "astonishingly well" under the most disadvantageous circumstances, for a number of years, notwithstanding all that has been said or written against it, and that it would be difficult to devise a scheme better suited to the peculiarities of the country. He considers it only wonderful that the Darogahs have not been guilty of more fragrant abuses, and that the "criminal jurisprudence" of this empire should have been carried on for so long a time, so much through the instrumentality, and with so much regularity, under paid, over worked, and exposed to so much temptation as they are.

But in reply to another part of these queries the acting Joint Magistrate negatives this praise by saying, that the police "is now by no means in the state it ought to be, there are only two or three Darogahs at all fit for their situations, and most of the inferior officers of Police are sadly deficient, both in activity and intelligence, it is however a matter of much difficulty to procure others to supply their places with superior qualification. I am sensibly alive to the necessity of effecting many reforms in the Police of the zillah, yet I consider it to be the best plan to proceed with the reformation by degrees, and with caution, and to remove gradually the inefficient and ill-conducted, whenever others can be found to fill their plèces with any reasonable hope that they will not adopt the idle habits, or follow the vicious courses of their predecessors. For the most part a change is merely fixing a more active and hungry leech upon the patient public in the place of one, who from repletion may be supposed to be somewhat satisfied."

This may be good, perhaps in theory—but it is too well known that "increase of appetite doth grow on," such food, however the acting Joint Magistrate pursues his theory to the utmost in practice, apparently, for so gradually does he remove "the inefficient and ill-conducted;" that during the last three years only three Darogahs have been dismissed, (one for conniving at crime, one for neglect, and one for oppression,) and of these *three* he recommends *two* as fit for re-employment; in the same period, five Mohurirs and five Jummadars having been dismissed, he recommends three of each as fit for re-employment; this is slow and gradual weeding indeed, where all are represented as bad. The Chokeedars are the only officers who have been dismissed to any extent, and of them two hundred and nine have been got rid of in the three years.

MOORSHEDABAD. None, except that which will be referred to in the reply to query the twenty-second.

MYMUNSING. The acting Magistrate would add to the increase of pay, the prospect of promotion to Moonsiffships, &c.

He would also have up-country men employed as Burkandoses, who after a tour of duty at the Sudder kutcheree, and the jail, during which they should be taught the use of fire arms, and to act in concert, should be distributed to the thannahs as required, but not continuing at any one for more than a year; add to this, they should have the

prospect of promotion to the office of Jummadar, who should always have done good service.

Further he would have a Superintendent, as an executive officer, to proceed to the spot where any great outrage was committed to apprehend the offenders, &c., being well paid, having with him a Jummadar and ten or twelve Burkandoses; the latter, if possible, mounted, to make them more useful.

FUREEDPORE.

The acting Joint Magistrate is of opinion that increase of pay, without an entire change in the class of people employed, would do nothing towards effecting the requisite reform.

NOAKOLLEE.

An effective body of drilled Burkandoses in lieu of Chokeedars would be well in improving the Police, as well as an increase of the Doragah's pay.

HOOGLEE.

The Magistrate refers to his report to the Police Committee, which is printed, but briefly sums up the system he proposes, as one rendering the Police as much as possible a gradation service, having two classes of Darogahs; the first class being elected from the second, and the second from the Jummadars, the latter being in some cases elected from the Burkundoses, making it incumbent upon each of the candidates for the higher grade to have served a certain time in the lower: over these officers he would place Superintendents of three or four thousands, who should have also served a certain period as Darogahs, to have a salary of one hundred and fifty rupees.

He also suggests that registry books be kept of dismissals so as to prevent those officers who are discharged from one district being employed in another.

24-PERGUNNAHS.

The Magistrate considers the system defective chiefly in the want of principle and energy among the native subordinates; and suggests the formation of a patrol establishment, under an European superintendent, having charge of two thannahs and concurrent jurisdiction throughout the district, having Magisterial powers to a certain extent, with a salary of not less than one hundred and twenty-five rupees a month, and a horse or palankeen allowed. He should have four Jummadars and twenty Burkandoses in uniform, armed with fire arms, swords, and shields, all being also mounted. The thannah force to be reduced to a Darogah at twenty rupees, a Mohurir, and a Jummadar at eight rupees each, and ten Burkandoses at four rupees each, armed with swords, shields, and spears. The Darogahs should be eligible for promotion to Deputy Collectorates, Moonsiffships, and Superintendents as above proposed.

BARASET.

The Joint-Magistrate of Baraset considers that the present venal race of officers must be entirely changed, or their dispositions altered, before any material change for the better can be expected.

JESSORE.

The Magistrate of Jessore follows almost in the same strain, for in approving the plan of organizing the Police Burkandoses proposed in the Government Circular Orders of the 30th May 1837, No. 1840, he adds,

" but with the materials composing the present Darogah system, I do not think any altera-
" tion would improve it, not even increase of pay, unless the pay be raised sufficiently high
" to keep the Darogahs above temptation."

NUDDEEAH. With the exception of the Mohurir (who by the bye is generally paid higher than the same class of people receive from indigo planters and other Mofussil residents, without such extensive opportunities of peculation,) the Magistrate of Nuddeeah deems the thannah establishment well paid, and the only alteration he would suggest is the appointment of supervisors over 3 or 4 thannahs, which he considers well calculated to improve the Police.

MIDNAPORE. In the appointment of these latter officers the Magistrate of Midnapore concurs; but he thinks also that the pay of the Darogahs should be increased.

The Magistrates of Patna, Beerbhoom, Sylhet, Bakergunj and Tipperah, all concur in considering that increase of pay to the Darogahs is alone necessary to effect an improved state of things; whilst those of Bhagulpore, Dacca and Surkar-champarun, give no decided opinion on the subject, and from Monghyr, Burdwan, and Bankoorah, no replies are yet furnished.

REMARKS. The replies to this query tend on the whole to confirm the oft-repeated opinion, that a mere increase of pay to the Darogah would effect no amelioration of the Police; a higher character of people to fill that office being generally represented as essential to any improvement. This is apparently feasible, were India a country wherein education had excited a sufficient influence to create general respect towards rectitude of principle, and high moral character, but in a country like this, where prejury is not a vice and truth is deemed of little moment, where no public standard of morality exists, and where the people are not taught to look for a reward in public respect resulting from their own conduct, the seeking for a reality of high character is I fear hopeless as a general principle, though there are no doubt some really estimable men may be found amongst the natives of India, yet, as they form rather the exception than the rule, it is vain to calculate upon such being available for the officers of our Police.

Another plan proposed of raising two or three grades gradually increasing in pay, comes nearer perhaps to the possible completion of the object in view, and will form a part of the suggestions I shall hereafter offer, as it would give an exciting cause, by what comes more home to the feelings of each individual, in the shape of self-interest; as it would of course be a sine quâ non in a candidate for promotion, to have conducted himself honorably, and to have borne a good character in the inferior grade.

DOROGAHS. In my opinion, however, so detestible has the very name of Darogah become to the people from their constant extortions and oppressions, that it would be held as a boon by every native in the land, if the office and the name itself were abolished, and some other term even made use of to designate the head of

a thannah, under an improved system. This may appear a bold assertion, and one dangerous to hazard as an individual opinion, but it is borne out by facts, of which I shall only recur to a few in evidence of the bad character of Darogahs generally, under the present system; in which when left to themselves, as is commonly the case, they are lords paramount within the boundary of their jurisdiction, and riot in unrestrained licence of oppressive extortion.

Reports of Dismissals.

The most prominent of my grounds for assuming the opinion I have stated, appears in the reports of dismissals, which have been made to the Superintendent's office, by the Magistrates, for a period of three years; for whilst, on an average of the last three years, other officers have been dismissed for crimes and misdemeanours, proven to the Magistrate, in the proportion, of from one to five per cent., those of the Darogahs have exceeded four times that proportion, as out of three hundred and fourteen, of whom I have actual data in my hands, I find the dismissals, for *proved faults*, that have, in spite of all opposition, come to the Magistrate's knowledge, to average sixty-eight per annum, equalling twenty-one and three quarters per cent.; and among the assigned causes for dismissal, (and be it remembered I go upon actual existing reports, not on speculative opinions,) I find, in the course of three years, four cases of *torture* proceeding in two of them even to the destruction of life, also cattle-*stealing*, bribery and extortion, embezzlement, perjury, with false reports, and evidence, as well as aiding and abetting various crimes to the amount of fifty-eight cases, and comprehending a connivance at theft, robbery, murder, thuggee! &c.

Instances of Malversation.

It is perhaps unnecessary to multiply cases in support of my opinion, as these records would be sufficient for every purpose I maintain, but to satisfy curiosity I will proceed to strengthen my views by a few more instances of a general character, which are unpunished by, perhaps unknown to the authorities, confining myself however to such as I can vouch for being authentic, by their having come under my own immediate cognizance.

To proceed then,—A Darogah now actually holding office at Bankeepore in the Patna district, after having been dismissed from three zillahs and re-employed, was again discharged by the acting Magistrate of Behar, Mr. J. S. Dumergue, from Gya, for concealing and falsifying a report on a dead body found, with marks of violence under very suspicious circumstances. This being, however, reversed by the Judge, the man was re-instated for the fifth time, after this he was again discharged for sitting *dhurna* in the very same district, but the decision of the acting Magistrate being once more reversed by the Judge, the man was restored to office again. To add, if possible, to the criminal nature of this case, it has since been found that the whole *nuthee* of the proceedings has been abstracted from the official records, for which it is well known, the man had to pay largely.

Mr. Luke, the acting Magistrate of Sarun, relates that it is a common practice for the Police officers to proceed to a village for the ostensible purpose of instituting an enquiry, but actually to levy a tax on its inhabitants.

Near Dewangunj in Burdwan a woman was accidentally drowned in a tank, and the Darogah of Kutwa was sent for, to hold an inquest on the body; after *two days*, he sent a Jummadar to collect the witnesses and make enquiries, the gentleman, who is ezardar of the village, desired to be present, at the same time forewarning his ryots that they were not to give the Police officers any money. The witnesses taking courage at this, readily came forward, the Jummadar refused to proceed with the enquiry and returned to Kutwa, leaving the body to be devoured by jackals, and no further investigation took place.

A Darogah of Shahabad, being suspended for two months, proceeded during that period down to Rajshuhaee, where he was soon installed in the Darogahship of Nattore, but after a month's service was dismissed for concealing a murder. He then started for Kishenugur and obtained a nomination to a Darogahship in zillah Nuddea, but the Magistrate making application regarding his character to Shahabad, prevented the confirmation of his appointment.

The Molessar Darogah, considered by natives a good officer, went to make enquiry into the case of a trifling theft committed at the Dhobah sugar works on one of the servants, he took five days to make the investigation, during which period (though much against the inclination of Mr. M——, at that time in charge of the factory, who was only induced to permit it from a wish not to appear obstructing the ends of justice,) this Darogah kept the accused locked up in one of the factory godowns under guard of the Police burkandoses, but from whence he was allowed to escape; whilst the stolen goods, which, after having been sworn to by the owner, had been deposited in the hands of the Darogah, were, by that officer, given up to the *thief*, as it was afterwards discovered, for ten rupees.

Another case also which I noticed in a note I gave to the Police Committee, is detailed in a letter which I received from a gentleman resident at Morissar in Beerbhoom, under date the 21st March 1835, of which the following is an extract:—" I have been occupied with the delights of a Fouzdaree case of a very serious nature, and am likely to be so occupied for some time to come; when one gets involved in the law there is no getting out again, and I believe the shortest and best way, if you have sustained a loss of any kind, is to pocket the affront rather than to follow up the matter in the Courts. My case was an attempt to break into my godown, but thanks to the thickness of the wall, (2 feet or more) that attempt failed, but the thieves managed to open the shutters, and by means of bamboos to drag a bale of cloth near enough to the iron barricade, to abstract nearly 60 pieces. The Magistrate immediately came out and did what he could to recover the goods, but in vain, two of the thieves were caught, and the Magistrate left an Amlah to assist the Darogah in making a very thorough *tusbees* of the matter. All was going on, as I thought well, when one morning I found a fellow *sus : per : col :* in the filature, quite dead; I was at a loss for a long time to find how the d—l he got there, and it was not till after he was burnt, that I began to suspect the true state of the case. This poor wretch *had*

died in the Darogah's hands under an attempt to extort evidence from him by torture. As I could find no mark upon the body after a very minute examination, I really thought he had committed suicide, but he was merely strung up there by the Darogah to be out of the way. Immediately I communicated to the Magistrate my suspicion, he came out, and made a glorious investigation of the matter, the result of which is that the Darogah and Omlah are in jail awaiting their trial for murder, it will go hard against them."

Halting near Rajmahal I had occasion to go into the thannah at about eight o'clock in the evening, where I found, (as I heard was the usual practice since the well known attack of the thannah by Dakoits) that the Darogah, the Mohurir, the Jumadar, and all the Burkundoses, save one, were absent at their own houses in the town at some distance. In the thannah I found two prisoners—one charged with theft with his feet in the stocks, the other I found on enquiry to be one Ramjee Awun, a boatman of Buxar in Sarun, who had been taken out of a boat passing the place, and kept a prisoner for four days; further enquiry shewed me that, the Magistrate having issued orders for the apprehension of a certain ferryman, who was a delinquent, the Darogah had made use of the purwannah for purposes of extortion by stopping every boat that passed and exacting a fee for the release of the boatmen, which this man resisting, he had been kept prisoner as I found him. I reported this occurrence afterwards to the Superintendent of Police, but no notice was taken of it, nor any explanation sought.

I will not go into details regarding notorious facts admitted by all, of the Darogahs getting up charges solely to extort money from the villagers; I bring not forward instances, for they are too notorious, of the regular salaries they receive to afford protection to dakoits and facilitate the sale of the plunder they obtain; or of their establishing fixed rates of fees to be paid to themselves by the ryotts on occasions of marriages, shräds, &c.; or finally of the tax they levy, and receive from every indigo factory within their jurisdiction of 50 or 100 rupees at a time, which is paid as the lesser evil when compared with the opposition they would otherwise create among the ryotts, or the trouble they would give by frequent and ruinous summonses to the factory servants, for such occurrences are too generally known to receive the mention of particular misdeeds of the kind, to say nothing of their negligence and frequent absences without any substitutes being appointed to perform their duties, of which it will suffice to mention one of two instances, occurring in this year within my own observation—passing Kutwa I found the Darogah absent on private affairs prosecuting a suit in the Judge's court at Burdwan;—when I reached Sootee the Darogah was absent, having gone to his house on account of the reported sickness of one of his family, this man I believe did not return, he is said when ordered to prepare boats, a short time previous for the passage of troops, to have stopped every trading and passage boat passing the head of the Bhaguruttee, releasing only those which paid for the favor, whereby he realized twelve hundred Rupees in a short time; one of his burkandoses *I saw* in the act of levying money from a villager.

At Kalleagunj thannah in Poorneah, I found the Darogah absent from reputed sickness; and the same occurred at Beergunj in Dinajpore, without any one being in charge of the duties.

Many of these, being not solitary instances, but general and well known occurrences recognized by many of the public officers themselves, (although it is difficult to obtain such proof of individual cases as shall satisfy the public, or a judicial Court so as to produce conviction,) being, as they are stated by most of the Magistrates, &c. more the faults of the system than of individual delinquency, sufficiently prove that a general reform is necessary, and that, as evidenced by some Darogahs themselves, who were examined before the Police Committee, something more than a mere increase of pay is necessary for the improvement of the thannah and darogah system.

Vide the examination of Abdool Hakeem Khan, No. 919 and of Moluvee Musteerum, No. 634.

The main point in which reform is called for in the present system, as is admitted by several of the Magistrates themselves, appears to be in the want of a sufficient and oft-recurring surveillance of its inferior officers, for were they actively superintended, the same police officers, corrupt and oppressive as they now are, would prove efficient and useful servants. If they were, in fact, subjected to frequent personal supervision by an European officer,—so as to prevent the commission with impunity, of acts of oppression, and produce the liability to immediate discovery, throwing a strong check in the way of their present unlicensed extortions by presenting the opportunity to the villagers of making personal complaints without subjecting themselves to greater violence, or at the least undertaking a long journey, or wading through the pains of a tedious process, the same men, against whom such serious charges are now made, would be an able, an efficient police, at least in the inferior grades; especially too, if there were given to them a prospect of promotion in their immediate line of duty, thus for instance from Chokeedaree burkundoses, through the post of Burkandos to Jamadar, and thence perhaps to be the head of a thannah.

MEMORANDUM

On the returns constituting the replies to Circular No. 75 of 1837.

As the subject of the general character of the Police Officers will have most probably to be enlarged upon in the digest of the replies to the circular No. 9 of 1838 conveying queries on the subject of Police reform, it is unnecessary in this note to enlarge very much, and I therefore will only make a few remarks on the statement I have drawn up, premising however that these returns must not be considered by any means as exhibiting all the derelictions or delinquencies of the Police officers, as many never reach the ears of the Magistrate, and a large portion are summarily punished by that officer by suspension, &c. The total ratio here entered however would shew that in every eleven years there is a new set of Police officers, were they in all grades equally the subject of dismissal; but this is

far from being the case, and we find that the proportion increases as the grades rise, thus we find of Jummadars the proportion is 8 per cent. while Mohurirs are as 10 per cent. and the Darogahs rise to 21 per cent. or an entire change of all the Darogahs in four years and nine months. Of this annual 21 per cent. discharged 5½ per cent. are guilty of being accessories to, or conniving at crimes; one per cent. receive their discharge for false evidence and reports; 2½ for oppression and assault; 2¾ for bribing and extortion; and a half per cent. for robbery and embezzlement; whilst one annually is discharged for the use of torture, or committing murder; one many lose his situation for incapacity from old age or sickness: and the rest are removed for contumacy or gross neglect.

But say many "the system is in fault for all this," and again—The Magistrate of Jessore says, "the system makes the new men you may put in as bad as the old," this may be possible, but it admits of a doubt—and we may fairly attribute something to the reprehensible practice of inconsiderately replacing men who have been discharged, especially when this statement shews us the following singular facts in elucidation of this supposition; we find the Magistrate in Bhagulpore recommending as fit for employment again, as public officers, two Mohurirs who must have been guilty either of falsifying evidence or reports, of practicing extortion or receiving bribes; or being discovered committing acts of oppression or assault. Two Darogahs from Monghyr are recommended (allowing the other three to be merely those discharged for neglect) for re-employment, whose choice of crimes were either connivance at crime, oppression, or bribery; whilst a Jumadar guilty of oppression or assault is deemed a good officer;—in Rungpore of the Mohurirs one falsifier of reports, two oppressors of the people, and one extortioner, with his fellow criminal, a Jumadar, are held as good servants;—in Bugoorah two Mohurirs guilty of oppression or assault are recommended to be reposted;—the Backurgunj Joint Magistrate recommends all those dismissed as "fit for employ," although there are amongst them a Darogah, two Mohurirs, and one Jumadar guilty of accession to, or connivance at crime, one Mohurir discharged for making a false report, two Darogahs, three Mohurirs and one Jumadar known to have committed assault or other oppression, one Darogah guilty of embezzlement and one Mohurir receiving bribes;—the Burdwan Magistrate recommends three Darogahs, and the Midnapore Magistrate five, who must have been guilty of crimes.

But it is useless multiplying examples, the above proves sufficiently the necessity of more carefulness in making appointments among Police officers, the advantages to be derived from a regular registry of dismissed servants, from which annual lists might be printed for distribution to all the Magistrates, &c. and the great want of an uniform systematic plan rendering it impossible for a man dismissed for crime to be again employed on public service.

QUERY FOURTH.

What system do you adopt to prevent the Police from arresting people improperly, and then releasing them without orders?

PATNA. The Darogahs have orders to enquire from a prosecutor what proof he has to sustain a charge, and after privately questioning the witnesses named, and his neighbours, if confirmatory of the accusation to apprehend the defendant, write down the evidence and forward him to the Magistrate, and this is omitted only under penalty of a reprimand, or fine according to circumstances.

BEHAR. If made oppressively or illegally, the Darogahs are punished for misconduct.

SHAHABAD. They are enjoined, on penalty of severe displeasure, not to apprehend persons without sufficient cause, but when once apprehended, are obliged to report to the Court, or they are fined.

BUGOORAH. Fine or dismissal is resorted to, to punish the Darogah for false arrests.

JESSORE. By a circular of the 29th October 1835, Darogahs are required to release the accused on security, if the charge be not sufficiently proved against him, pending the orders of the Magistrate, but if an arrest be made on insufficient grounds, the Darogah is declared punishable by fine or dismissal.

MIDNAPORE. If parties be forwarded to the station on insufficient grounds, the Darogah is subjected to a fine, and it is ordered to place accused parties, against whom no proof satisfactory to the Darogah exists of commission of the crime with which they are charged under surveillance of the *zumindars, or headmen of the village*, pending the orders of the Magistrate.

In the other districts, viz. Sarun, Surkar Champarun, Poorneah, Bhagulpore, Tirhoot, Dinajpore, Malda, Rungpore, Moorshedabad, Pubna, Beerbhoom, Mymunsing, Dacca, Fureedpore, Sylhet, Backergunj, Tipperah, Hooglee, Barasut, Nuddea, Rajshuhaee, and Noakollee, no system for prevention of false arrests is even attempted, beyond the mere fear of an undefined punishment if discovered, and the fact on formal complaint of the sufferers satisfactorily proved, to which is added a general order, in conformity with the regulations, to release all charged with petty or doubtful crimes on bail.

The returns from Monghyr, Burdwan, Bankoorah, and the Twenty-four Pergunnahs are not yet received.

REMARKS. In fact in no single district is any measure, strictly so speaking, adopted to prevent this oft-recurring means of oppression, known however to be of most frequent occurrence, and as an ordinary means adopted by the Darogahs to extort money. It would be difficult however under the present system to suggest any remedy for this crying evil, which will only give way to vigilant superinten-

dence, and frequent unexpected visits from a duly authorized officer, that by rendering discovery more probable, would go far to suppress this evil.

QUERY EIGHTH.

What is the state of the Village-watch, and are they sufficiently paid, and what alteration could you propose for their reform?

For convenience of placing the opinions of the several Magistrates on each point in immediate juxtaposition, I divide this query, as indeed it ought originally to have been, into three parts, first, the present state of the watch,—second, the sufficiency of their pay,—and third, the proposed alterations for its improvement.

1st.—The present state of the watch.

PATNA. The Mofussil Chokeedars are represented as very inefficient, and little dependence can be placed on them, as they are at disposal of the highest bidder, besides which they are more looked upon as slaves of the zumeendars than servants of the police.

BEHAR. The watch has been shamfully neglected, having almost fallen into disuse, though generally useful and good servants, when the means of maintenance in their own villages was confirmed to them.

SHAHABAD. They are most inefficient, nothing occurs in the village without their knowledge, but being the creatures of the head men, reports are only made conformably to their wishes.

SARUN. No department requires a more thorough reform, they are sadly neglected, seldom remunerated and never incited to an useful degree of activity, unrewarded too for faithful service, they often league with the most notorious thieves and vagabonds, not unfrequently being themselves ringleaders, and participators in the crimes they are appointed to prevent.

SURKAR CHAMPARUN. They were in the worst possible state "compelled for a livelihood to become thieves," the established custom was upon any thing being stolen to give the Chokeedar two or three rupees to get back the property. They are now in a little better order.

POORNEAH The tax being collected by the Chokeedars themselves, or by the munduls or putwarees, is a very bad system, as the acting Magistrate fears that the chokeedars thus seldom receive their pay, and are consequently driven to thieving, &c. for a livelihood. To the same source also is owing the undue influence of the zumeendars and their people over the Chokeedars.

BHAGULPORE. The state of the village watch is by no means good; they are badly and irregularly paid.

TIRHOOT.

The Chokeedars are nominated by the zumeendars at the rate of fifty houses to each Chokeedar, a reform is urgently called for, as the present Chokeedars are generally dosäds, dhunnaces and other low caste men, often themselves thieves.

DINAJPORE.

There is scarcely any village watch, that is to say, the Chokeedar takes his rest at night the same as his neighbours, besides which the beats are scattered over too great an extent of ground for the present number of Chokeedars (7,470, or one to 307 inhabitants,) to be of much use; they are often thieves from necessity, and the good they do is very problematical.

MALDA.

The character and situation of the village watch is anomalous, they are inefficient, and are able to suppress many things in their reports to the Darogahs which they turn to account, inadequately remunerated as they are.

RUNGPORE.

The Chokeedaree system is good in itself, and its material should be a constant object of the Magistrate's care. The acting Magistrate has recently inspected the entire body, discharged the old and decrepid, and supplied the whole with chuprasses, spears, and rattles, placing twenty to forty houses under each.

RAJSHUHAEE.

Very inefficient and scarce worthy the name of "a watch," most of them being employed all day by the zumeendars, or in agriculture pursuits, are unable to perform their duty as watchmen at night, they are also entirely under the control of the zumeendars, headmen of the village, &c. without whose sanction they do not report any thing.

BUGOORAH.

As good as can be expected.

PUBNA.

There can be nothing more inefficient than the village watch, ever since the abolition of corporal punishment. The chokeedars are believed to be concerned in almost all the heinous crimes which are perpetrated. The system is altogether a bad one; the honester chokeedars are obliged for subsistence to weary themselves by labor in the field, and thus incapacitate themselves for their duty, whilst the less scrupulous league with robbers. They are moreover altogether under control of the zumeendars, nothing can however be worse than it is at present.

MOORSHEDABAD.

Inefficient.

BEERBHOOM.

The chokeedars are parties to almost every robbery that takes place.

MYMUNSING.

The state of the village watch is bad.

DACCA.

All the honest men among them would gladly relinquish their employment.

FUREEDPORE.

The village watch are in the last stage of inefficiency, but the greatest present evil is their dependence on the heads of villages and the zumeendars.

SYLHET.

The watch in Sylhet is very imperfect.

BACKERGUNJ.

The state of the watch is unquestionably bad, and its improvement will be a work of time, yet without a complete change in the nature of the watch, the chokeedars can never be an efficient body, they are at present the servants of the zumeendars and talookdars, by whom they are appointed, and the Magistrate has sometimes found the houses over which they watch scattered in *different villages*, and a large extent of country, because the estates of the individuals who appointed them are so situated. They are the chief actors in affrays, and bring to light or conceal crimes according to the wish of their principals. They are often thieves, receivers of stolen property, or bought over to silence.

TIPPERAH.

The village watch is as "efficient as it is possible to make it under present circumstances. They are completely under the control of the zumeendar, and look to him in the first instance for orders."

NOAKOLLEE.

The present system is a total failure, there is hardly a theft committed, or a crime perpetrated in which a chokeedar is not concerned, besides concealing crimes, for a consideration, to a large extent.

HOOGLEE.

Mr. Samuells replies by giving extracts of his letters to the Commissioner of the 10th December 1836, and 8th May 1837, which enter much into detail, from which it may be gathered that it is detrimental to their efficiency to be appointed exclusively by the zumeendars, as also from the tax from the proceeds of which they are paid, being so irregularly levied. The chokeedar is generally the concealer, or active instrument of crime at the dictate of the zumeendar, whose rents he fatigues himself in collecting, rendering himself unfit for the duty of watching.

24-PERGUNNAHS.

Very inefficient, but under an improved system the chokeedars might afford a good material for forming an efficient arm of the police. They are at present undoubtedly too much under the influence of the zumeendar, and his omlah.

BARASUT.

They are but indifferent.

JESSORE.

Very inefficient, they do not always get paid, and consequently they neglect their duty, whilst from the influence of the zumeendars &c. they dare not report the commission of crimes.

NUDDEAH.

The chokeedars having to collect the sum allowed them, the full amount fixed is rarely obtained.

MIDNAPORE.

The watch is far from being on an efficient, or sound footing.

2ndly. The sufficiency of their pay.

PATNA.

The chokeedars have small nominal allowances varying from two annas to as many rupees, and in some instances only a small quantity of rice, all of which are very irregularly paid.

BEHAR AND SHAHABAD. The Magistrates make no mention of this part of the question.

SARUN. They are seldom remunerated.

SURKAR CHAMPARUN. Their pay is sufficient when regularly received.

POORNEAH. It is feared that they get but a scanty portion of the assumed allowance, which were it regularly paid would be sufficient.

BHAGULPORE. Some receive two or three rupees a month, others have from five to ten beegahs of ground.

TIRHOOT. They are paid sometimes in money, sometimes in grain, or lands, its value varying from eleven and a half annas to two rupees eight annas per mensem, the general average being Rs. 1.5 A. 19 G. 87 K. each, a sum inadequate to the support of one individual, far less a family of six or seven, as is generally the case with chokeedars.

DINAJPORE. They are very badly paid, getting but little by right, they actually receive less, having to collect their own stipend from the villagers, which makes them dependent on each individual of them.

MALDA. Their salary as actually paid is very inadequate, varying from one rupee eight annas, to one rupee twelve annas, and two rupees.

RUNGPORE. Their salary is uncertain in amount from being levied from a tax on the inhabitants within their beat.

RAJSHUHAEE. Their nominal pay is three rupees per mensem but they seldom get half.

BUGOORAH. No reply is given to this part of the question.

PUBNA. The stipends vary from one rupee eight annas to three rupees, but are quite insufficient for maintaining themselves and their families.

MOORSHEDABAD. Insufficient as at present collected.

BEERBHOOM. They are generally paid in land, varying from thirty beegahs to five, the average being twelve, but that is inadequate.

MYMUNSING. They are underpaid.

DACCA. Their pay is somewhere about twelve annas, and in all inadequate.

FURREEDPORE. It is to be presumed from the acting Joint-Magistrate's reply, which is very indefinite, that they are not underpaid.

No reply is given on this point.

BACKERGUNJ. They generally have three rupees per mensem, which as they also cultivate some land, is sufficient.

TIPPERAH. They are paid between two rupees eight annas, and three rupees per mensem, which is a fair allowance.

NOAKOLLEE. The pay is too little to afford even a temptation to be honest!

HOOGLEE.

The chokeedars receive something less on the average than three rupees per mensem, which is evidently in the opinion of the magistrate too little, as he proposes to have it increased.

24-PERGUNNAHS.

"Known to be four rupees, and as the situation is eagerly desired by the poorer classes, as a maintenance, it is fair to presume that it proves adequate to the support of the incumbent, not in itself perhaps, *but with the addition* of the perquisites it yields."

BARASUT.

The pay they receive is four Rupees per mensem, which is sufficient, and more than people in that class of life generally receive.

JESSORE.

They are allowed from two or three rupees a month, which last sum would be sufficient if regularly paid.

NUDDEAH.

The present nominal pay of three rupees eight annas is quite sufficient if regularly paid.

MIDNAPORE.

Some are remunerated by small plots of jagheer land, and where this is not the case, the money payments range from two rupees four annas, to two rupees twelve annas, but the total average value is, as far as can be ascertained, one rupee four annas and four pie, on which it is impossible for them to live.

3rdly. The proposed alterations for its improvement.

PATNA.

The Magistrate of Patna suggests that in all villages exceeding three thousand inhabitants the watchmen be appointed and paid as the station watch are, under Regulation XXII. of 1816, and where the inhabitants fall short of that number, that the Zumeendars be compelled to allot them three rupees a month or eight beegahs of land, their employment in collection of the Zumeendar's rents being also strictly prohibited.

BEHAR.

The Magistrate, as their proper guardian, should see that the Chokeedars have the means of livelihood, whether it be in grain, land or money, leaving their pay however to the head men of the villages, in conjunction with the inhabitants at each.

SHAHABAD.

They should be nominated by the Darogah, invested with a Government chupras and spear, and means should be taken to insure their regular payment. The average in number of one division, or thannah would be sufficient for the whole district to cope with ordinary cases, and special constables might be employed for any special occasion.

SARUN

They should be nominated as those under Regulation XXII. of 1816, and the most respectable men of the village, constituting a Punchaet, should be made responsible for payment of their wages in coin or kind, the whole body should be mustered at the thannah once a week; the Darogah reporting to the Magistrate such as neglect to attend, or otherwise misbehave. No reform in the village police can be attempted until a better class of individuals are placed at the head of the Mofussil police,

SURKAR CHAMPARUN. The Joint Magistrate has instituted the plan of making all the heads of the villages, through their putwaree, send the receipt to the thannah, whence it is forwarded to himself, a plan which he has found have good effect.

POORNEAH. The rate payable by each inhabitant should be fixed as appointed for those under Regulation XXII. of 1816, so as to give every Chokeedar three rupees per mensem, the money being remitted by the Magistrate, to be issued with the salaries of the other police officers, which would render them independent of the Zumeendars, and certain of their pay.

BHAGULPORE. They should be made servants of Government, and have a brass badge, with a fixed salary of three rupees, the assessment and collection from the villagers being vested in the Darogah.

TIRHOOT. The same plan should be adopted as for station watchmen under Regulation XXII. of 1816, to secure at least three rupees to each Chokeedar, a system of rewards, as well as punishments, should be established, as well as promotion to the office of Burkandos for meritorious services, the Thannadars should see them regularly paid, forwarding accounts of the collections, with the Chokeedar's receipt, and the surplus funds to the Magistrate every month.

DINAJPORE. If a system of regular payment be not established, the office of Chokeedar had better be abolished, the acting Magistrate proposes, that where there are at present three or four watchmen, there should be one able bodied well paid Burkandos receiving his pay from the Magistrate, to which end the Zumeendars should pay to the Magistrate what they nominally pay to the Chokeedars.

MALDA. It is not necessary at present to extend one organized system to every village, it will be enough to establish within villages of a certain population a well regulated night guard, with salaries adequate to their support, and payment thereof *secured* to them, the Magistrate however having discretionary power to admit villages of smaller extent within the benefit of such a provision. The Chokeedar should be under supervision of a bukshee, of which there might be from two to four to each thannah, to whom their reports should be made when he visits the village, instead of by going to the Darogah as at present, except in cases requiring the immediate attention of the Darogah himself.

RUNGPORE. Could three rupees monthly be regularly secured to them, it would greatly tend to increase their zeal and efficiency, but this can hardly be hoped for, unless a different system to that in force of levying their stipends from the inhabitants within the beat is adopted, and Government add something to the proceeds.

RAJSHUHAF. The first step to reform is to render them as far as possible independent of the Zumeendar, his gomastahs, the munduls, and the head men of the village. They should be selected by the heads of families in the village, appointed by the Darogah, and approved by the Magistrate, and on no account should they be allowed to perform any other work than their duty as watchmen requires.

BOGOORAH. Increase of pay, or any other alteration, would be ineffectual in improving them until the native character be completely reformed by education.

PUBNA. To render the watch inefficient they should be better paid and altogether unconnected with the Zumeendars and village people, the salary should be four rupees, leviable from every forty or fifty habitations, in the manner laid down in Regulation XXII. of 1816; appointed too, and removeable by the Magistrate. The same amount as is now levied, if properly applied, might furnish each village with an effective and trustworthy watch, who to prevent the formation of local associations should be itinerant, occasionally removing from one village to another.

MOORSHEDABAD. No reply has been made to this part of the question.

BEERBHOOM The acting Magistrate does not see any immediate remedy for the present state of things, it might be well, he considers to make over the land to the Zumeendars and to establish an organized body of Chokeedars paid direct by Government, "but to turn off the present incumbents would be to let loose 14,000 (the number of the Chokeedars,) *thieves on this district.*"

MYMUNSING. They ought to be appointed in the same manner as the station watch under Regulation XXII. of 1816. The Darogah, previous to appointment. ascertaining that they are of good character, and have not been punished for any crime.

DACCA The Magistrate would dismiss the Chokeedars, except when two-thirds of the inhabitants personally applied for them, and supply their places with a military police. For giving information, he would have a certain number of able bodied respectable men sworn as constables, paying them four annas a day when on active service, and a reasonable sum for giving information at the thannah.

FUREEDPORE. They should be made independent of the zumeendars and villagers, and be paid by the Government, also made removable from one village to another to prevent their forming any connection with the residents of a village. A small tax should be levied sufficient to pay each watchman four rupees per mensem.

SYLHET. The inhabitants are so wretchedly poor that enforcing a complete establishment of Chokeedars would be felt as a great grievance.

BACKERGUNJ. The acting Magistrate proposes nothing in emendation of the system, but says that if they were independent of the zumeendars and talookdars, an affray could rarely if ever take place.

TIPPERAH. The Acting Magistrate is unable to point out any alteration for their reform.

NOAKOLLEE. The Chokeedars should be abolished, and a body of Burkandoses entertained, moving about the districts on the Magistrate's orders,

with Havildars to every ten men, Jummadars over each thirty, with three officers of a higher grade over these, and a subadar over the whole, the body being drilled to act in concert.

HOOGLEE. The land given for support of the Chakaran pykes, should be increased to twelve beegahs at least, and for those that receive salaries a system similar to that for support of the station watch under Regulation XXII. of 1816 should be adopted, and they should be paid three rupees eight annas a month, indeed it would be better to make this a rule for all Chokeedars and restore the Chakaran lands.

24-PERGUNNAHS. They should be placed under control of the Magistrate on the same footing as Burkandoses.

BARASET. No reply is made to this part of the query.

JESSORE. They should be placed under the entire control of the Magistrate, and have their pay regulated and levied agreeably to Regulation XXII. of 1816.

NUDDEEAH The Magistrate proposes that the three rupees, eight annas, should be regularly paid to the Chokeedars by the Zumeedars, who might collect these dues from the ryotts.

MIDNAPORE They should be so well paid as to render it unnecessary for them to labor in the field. The smallest salary should be three rupees eight annas, to be collected from the Zumeendars by the Darogahs.

The officers in Monghyr, Burdwan, and Bankoorah have given no replies.

REMARKS It is very surprising to observe how few facts have been elicited by this query; nearly the whole of the replies being confined to mere theoretical assertions, affording no data on which to ground a well-founded system, or to base any remaks, and this notwithstanding the highly interesting nature of the subject comprised in the query, and the extensive influence the chokeedaree system must have on the peace and tranquillity of the country and the protection of life and property. It appears therefore the more astonishing how very meagre are the replies the several Magistrates have given, all however except the Magistrates of Rungpore, Bugoorah, and Tipperah agree in representing the present state of the watch as inefficient, and the last of these three officers confines his view of its efficiency to the expression of the watch "being as efficient as it is possible to make it under present circumstances."

The statement I have framed from the replies to Circular No. 74 of 1837 is appended to this paper, as it affords a fair criterion of the state of the watch as far as it comes under cognizance of the Magistrate, and from this it appears that the dismissals made for *proven* causes before those officers were annually rather more than five in every four huudred, and it further appears that of these for *actual crimes* out of one hundred and thirty thousand, three hundred, and sixty five, the number is three hundred and seventy-six,

annually, which would be 2.88 in the thousand of men who are placed as guardians of a people, among whom I have shewn the ratio of crime to be only 0.60 in the thousand.

The statement referred to in the observations on the replies to the first query shews the vast disproportion of the chokeedaree force between one zillah and another, and as I have there commented upon this subject at some length, both as regards the numerical strength and the cost of this establishment, I shall not enter upon further detail here: suffice it that, were there no extortions used for the support of the Chokeedars beyond the admitted demand, their cost would be found to amount to above sixty lacs of rupees annually, a sum, as I have before shewn, amply sufficient for the maintenance of a really efficient Police establishment, but proofs exist, as I shall evidence by a few facts of a considerably larger sum being exacted from the poor ryotts, &c. even it may be fairly and without exaggeration estimated to the extent of three times that amount, or at least one hundred and eighty lacs annually.

State of the Watch.

Let us not however, digress but examine progressively into the present state and history of the Chokeedaree establishment. We find that in former times, under the native Governments, the office of Chokeedar was confined to a respectable class of villagers, having a station to maintain in the little community of their hamlet, they were allowed a small portion of land for support, over which the zumeendar had no control, and of which he was incapable by any means of depriving them: that it was adequate to their support will be seen, by a reference to the revenue accounts of the early days of British rule in India, but besides this provision, they were held to have legitimate title, by custom and long established usage, to certain fees and gratuities on the occurrence of marriages, and other ceremonies or feasts in the village, as well as at the harvesting of the crops; these resources combined to support them in comfort and respectability among their co-freres of the village, with whom their office and character gave them no small power, and generally speaking they were consequently of good caste. When, however, this mode of provision was abolished, the zumeendars, being in the decencial settlement allowed proportionately, were required to see that the Chokeedars were appointed and paid, or received an equivalent after the rate of three Rupees per mensem, without any further allowances, which were deemed oppressive on the people. By this measure respectable men ceased to desire the appointment, for they become in fact the servants of the Zumeendars, as appears from nearly all the Magistrate's reports, instead of being distinctly, as they ought to be, public servants, and hence arises the universal complaint of the inefficiency of and little dependence to be placed on the present Chokeedars. Hence too the decreased respectability of the class of people now employed generally in the capacity of Chokeedars and such like, in fact the outcasts of society among whom, as is naturally to be expected, vice revels, and crime is rife, they are in fine, from these causes, the plunderers, and not the protectors of the people, their detestation instead of the object of their respect, shunned and feared instead of being resorted to as defenders, the shelterers and comrades

of thieves and dakoits. A fearful change from their former state, and one that cannot be too much deprecated, calling loudly as it does for a reform in root and branch.

Sufficiency of Pay.

My second division of this query refers to the pay of the chokeedars, a subject on which I certainly feel some hesitation in detailing the conclusions to which I have come, and I consequently beg they may be received with all due consideration also to the grounds of foundation whereon are built the opinions of the Magistrates, to which I am opposed only because my own personal inquiries and experience have satisfied me of their accuracy, or at least feasibility on the grounds which shall be exhibited in the course of these remarks: originally I was agreeing in the opinion, so generally expressed by nearly all the Magistrates, that the chokeedars were seldom if ever paid for the duties they performed, or at all events were so inadequately remunerated as to leave them open to every temptation. I commenced my inquiries with a strong bias in favor of the so generally expressed supposition that they were poor and oppressed individuals, without any sufficient means of subsistence. From the replies to this query it would appear that the sum they receive varies from *two annas* to three rupees per mensem, and that it is wholly inadequate to the support of an individual; the only exceptions to this general belief being in the Twenty-four Pergunnahs and Barasut, where four rupees is the fixed rate, and generally as much or more than people in that class of life, otherwise employed, can earn; but the Joint Magistrate of Poorneah, the acting Joint Magistrate of Furreedpore, the acting Magistrate of Bakergunj, the acting Magistrate of Tipperah, the Magistrate of Jessore, and the Magistrate of Nudeeah, while they seem to believe that the chokeedars do not receive the full sum of three rupees per mensem, evidently consider that sum an inadequate salary.

It is very evident, however, that the Magistrates, form their opinion of the remuneration these officers actually receive, on the supposition that they collect no more than a regular fixed sum gathered from each house, often unpaid, and are not aware that—(as I have very good reason to believe, and the Magistrate of the Twenty-four Pergunnahs appears to concur in the opinion from the acknowledgment he makes of their receiving *perquisites)*—they still continue to collect the fees, &c., formerly allowed to the original chokeedars before the decennial settlement, on the marriages, poojahs, &c., of the ryotts; amounting as I firmly believe to considerable sums, although it is extremely difficult, if not indeed altogether impossible, to obtain accurate data on the subject, so much so, that I entertain considerable reluctance, as I before said, to take up the position I have regarding it; this however I have formed on the following and similar information which I have been at some pains* in collecting from various sources including the zumeendars, their omlah, the shop-keepers, and ryotts of various parts, backed often by the admission even of various chokeedars themselves: of these I beg to mention a few.

* At my own expense in visiting distant places, chiefly since May 1838.

A chokeedar a little beyond Rajmuhal in Zillah Bhagulpore* stated that he seldom received less than one rupee per mensem from marriages, poojahs, &c.;—the like was also told me by a ryott in Berhampore village near Seetakoond in Monghyr. At Bar,† complaints were made to the Superintendent of Police and to myself by the chokeedars, that they were able to collect only from twelve annas to one rupee per mensem; but a little conversation with more than one, produced an admission that besides their fixed salaries they had a receipt of from sixteen to twenty rupees per mensem, which was confirmed by the Darogah and Jummadar of the thannah. In Zillah Shahabad at Baroogunj, a like acknowledgement was made by the chokeedar. At Dhurool in the Aklunghur thannadaree jurisdiction I was assured by the Zumeendars, Mohurers, and the Ryotts; to whom I spoke, that the perquisites of the chokeedars, were equal to at least four rupees per mensem, *besides their pay*; the latter stated by the darogah to be from one to two rupees. At Agurdeep in Zillah Nudeeah,‡ a chokeedar complained bitterly of receiving no more by his collections from the ryotts, in small sums of four pice from one, eight pice from another, &c., than two rupees twelve annas a month, but a little conversation produced an admission that, from presents on marriages, poojahs, and so forth, he received about two score (40) rupees annually. At Mooshurah near Nudeeah, a servant of an Indigo-planter told me that the chokeedars legitimately collected from two rupees twelve annas to three rupees, but that their fee on every marriage was fixed at one rupee, and that at poojahs they received from four annas to a rupee at the pleasure of the parties; the whole making an income of from five to six rupees monthly. At Kutwa in Zillah Burdwan, I learned from the shop-keepers, with several of whom I spoke, that the chokeedars are considered authorized to collect four rupees per mensem, but that the presents of fees on marriages, poojahs, &c., raise their wages to between seven or eight rupees. At Goorbhur in Zillah Barasut, the two chokeedars, as one of them informed me, received four rupees, collected from the ryotts, from two to four or eight annas on marriages, and a piece of cloth, &c., of about a rupee value, at each poojah in Assin. The last fact that I shall mention is, that it was lately discovered at Chingree-Huttah in the 24-Pergunnahs, that two chokeedars collected annually at least nine hundred rupees between them.

It may be said that surely the official reports of a large majority of the Magistrates are more worthy of credence, than the statements however succinct of a mere humble individual of but moderate pretensions, like myself, nevertheless I am disposed to urge strongly, that reliance may be placed on the above; for confined generally to his station, hedged in by the authority and dignity of his position, as well as surrounded by a host of native officers, all interested to give their own coloring to the state of affairs, few indeed are the vibrations

* Receiving according to the report from two to three rupees a month salary.

† The Zillah report says that the chokeedars receive from *two annas* to as many rupees.

‡ The report says, that their 'nominal' pay is three rupees eight annas.

of truth which ever reach his well cottoned ears; besides, although a private individual may converse freely with natives of all classes, seldom indeed is it that the Magistrates or others in authority are disposed to do so; and although it is true some honorable exceptions have existed, such instances are of rare occurrence, and yet more seldom does it occur that they have the power of so doing, being generally accompanied by servants or others, before whom few of the inhabitants will speak freely, although to one or even more Europeans, *unattended*, I have found all classes very communicative on any subject either public or private that may be started.

Certain it is that a general fixed rate of four rupees would be an ample remuneration to prevent all temptation, if the chokeedars be also placed under sufficient surveillance; but the sums required must be collected in a less objectionable mode, than that, at present adopted for their remuneration by the Zumeendars, of levying the tax from the ryotts by the hands of the chokeedars themselves, for so long as that is pursued the door of extortion and oppression is kept open, and no public authority can ever know the real circumstances of these men, or the actual amount of their receipts; and hence, whilst the information derived from one source, would lead to the supposition so generally expressed, that this branch of the police is driven by the stern hand of poverty to the commission of crime, oppression, and extortion, the several interests involved in other sources of intelligence, may combine perhaps to represent their receipts as greater than they really are; except indeed, as occurs in some of the examples noted above, when the same is admitted by the chokeedars themselves.

This much is certain that the Zumeendars although pledged to their support, and receiving an allowance from Government, in making settlements for that purpose, entirely neglect such provision; as far as they themselves are concerned, and while employing the chokeedars on their revenue collections and other private affairs, throw them entirely on the people for support; at the same time under the present system, the Magistrate seldom or never interests himself about their remuneration, or organization in any way; often quietly acquiescing in their (as he believes) receiving less than two rupees a month; although he must be fully aware, that such a paltry stipend must be utterly unequal to the support of a man and his family, unless increased by illegal profit derivable from abuse of power, or from the fruits of positive crime.

I have said nothing hitherto as to the chokeedaree establishment of station towns entertained and supported under the provisions of Regulation XXII. of 1816, revised by a recent Act; but the establishment maintained under these laws forms too small a proportion of the whole chokeedars for any particular notice to be necessary; as some of the Magistrates and others however, who have given an opinion on this branch of the Police have seemed to attach consideration to this portion of it, as forming a good basis for a revised system of general application, I may be allowed to make an observation relative to its effects since the the late act seems in my opinion to have most signally failed in producing the desired effects

of amelioration, from a want of due consideration being given, or sufficient inquiry made, as to the effect of the old mode of taxation under the first named Regulation before the promulgation of the latter law; a belief in which I am borne out by a recent application to Government made by Mr. J. H. Patton, the Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs, on this subject. It is really surprising that the fact should have been overlooked that the present system of levying the chookeedaree tax, constituted as it now is, guards and protects the rich and powerful, at the expense of the needy and defenceless—a rather startling assertion certainly, were it unaccompanied by proof, but I will shew it to be true nevertheless. In a few words; the law authorizes the levy of one anna from every straw thatched hut or bungalow, the rent of which is often not above one rupee per mensem, which would be in the ratio of taxation of 6.25 per cent., the inhabitant of this hut possessing rarely more than the clothes he stands up in, and the few days' supply of rice he has in store, offering no temptation to a thief, and requiring no watchman but poverty. Yet the legislature, whilst causing this heavy demand to be made on the poor man, refuses to sanction the levy of above four annas from the rich man's large upper-roomed house, with its extensive well laid out compound, and let at, perhaps, 300 rupees per mensem, whose inhabitant boasting of valuable plate and costly jewels, offers hourly temptation to the burglar and the common thief, requiring a lynx-eyed guardian for their protection,—notwithstanding which he is called on for a ratio of taxation amounting to only 0.083 per cent.: a degree of evident injustice that surely calls for some inquiry at the least.

The general proposition for improvement of the chokeedars in reply to the third branch of this query appears to be the universal extension of the provisions of Regulation XXII. of 1816 to every description of chokeedar, this however would disarrange the system entered upon under the decennial settlement and render necessary extensive alterations in the Revenue department, which might be in a great measure obviated. The Magistrates of Bhagulpore and Dacca, and the Joint Magistrate of Noakollee would recommend a regularly organized semi-military force in lieu of the present defective establishment, and all agree that they should be separated altogether from the control of the Zumeendars and placed exclusively under the Magistrates.—Many would say that this were a harsh measure as regards the Zumeendars, but from the acknowleged inefficiency of the chokeedars and the equally acknowledged certainty that although made use of as their servants, the Zumeendars do not directly pay them a fraction, although legally required to give them three rupees each per mensem, for which the provisions of the decennial settlement made ample allowance, they have by this neglect forfeited all right to complain of any alteration now made. It seems too, quite evident from the replies to this query, though none have entered into actual detail on the subject, that nearly all the magistrates concur in considering some alteration necessary that shall remove the control of the Zumeendars and place the chokeedars under sole authority of the Government, as regular public officers; a strong argument too in favor of this view of the case appears in the fact that, in every district

where there is a great city the majority of thannahs in which are provided with chokeedars, under Regulation XXII. of 1816; instead of the usual village watch the proportion* of chokeedars to each thannah falls far short of the average number of 366; and among them the ratio of crime, with the single exception of Patna, is not considerable with relative consideration to the chokeedars generally.

It appears to me then, very clear, that every branch of the police should be under the sole control and management of the Government; and that no portion, (much less the strongest, and under proper superintendence, what might be made the most useful part of it,) should be left to the tender mercies of the landholders for support, or thrown on the people individually, for existence,—in fact, that none but men duly appointed and exclusively employed as regular Police officers should be deputed to the performance of Police duties; except only in such cases of extraordinary emergency, but seldom occurring, as may warrant a call upon any inhabitants to give their aid and support to the Police in their operations in the prevention of dakoitee, the preservation of the peace, or the apprehension of desperate offenders, on which occasions the people should be encouraged, by rewards, public expressions of approval, &c. &c., to unite in one common interest and use their best exertions for the general good.

The amount now professedly and legally paid for chokeedars in one form or another; exclusive however, of fees or presents, is Rs. 60,59,856. annually, and the sum requisite, as I have shown in the remarks on the third query, for a really efficient and well organized forces of 90,502 men, of whom 10,679 should be mounted as a horse patrol, is only Rs. 52,14,852 per annum, or a saving on the present expense of Rs. 8,45,004 annually—these men should be allowed their proper turn of promotion with the remainder of the Police and also be taught to look for rewards on occasions of particularly bold or good conduct in apprehension of escaped criminals, the resistance of dakoits, and such like. Such an establishment, properly superintended, would soon change the face of matters connected with Police in this country—without such extended and active surveillance any alteration is useless,—is hopeless; improvement can only result from such activity of superintendence as may keep every Police officer constantly under the eye of his superior, and thus ensure either the prevention, or the immediate detection and punishment of any dereliction of duty. But with this and a well regulated force in a ratio of one to every three hundred inhabitants, as I have detailed in my observations on Query the third, every thing may be hoped for, and I may safely add secured, in the way of improvement that can be desired. Before closing this, I think it as well to take notice of a rather singular observation made by the Magistrate of Dacca, which appears to require some explanations. He says that

* Vide Patna	168
Moorshedabad	104
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And the 24-Purgunnahs	212

every honest man among them would gladly relinquish his employment; but it can hardly be supposed, as this remark would imply, that at this period a man is allowed to be retained by any species of force in an employment that he desires to quit, for whatever cause.

QUERY THIRTEENTH.

Are affrays common, and what plan do you adopt to prevent their occurrence?

PATNA. No—On report being made of an intended affray, the thannadar is deputed to ascertain the cause and prevent violence, if the quarrel be arising from claims to land, and both parties are maliks, they are called on, under Regulation XV. of 1824 to state their claims, and they are bound over to keep the peace. If from other causes, the parties are recommended to submit to arbitration and are bound over to keep the peace.

BEHAR. No—On information being given, the principals are summoned and detained at the court, in other words *imprisoned*, and a burkandos stationed to prevent disturbance, the parties in disputes about lands being directed to resort to Reg. XV. of 1824.

SHAHABAD. No—8 affrays—4 with, and 4 without, homicide—occurred in 1837. The rules laid down in the Circular Orders of the Nizamut Adawlut of the 25th Oct. 1797 and 19th April 1809 have generally formed the rule of guidance. The darogahs are required to report all cases of expected affrays when the parties are required to give Mochulkas; and Sec. 27, of Reg. XX. of 1817 is enforced as admirably adapted for prevention of affrays.

SARUN. No—they are frequent, but now much diminished. On intimation being given of an expected affray, the Zumeendars and chief men of the village are bound over to keep the peace.

SURKAR CHUMPARUN. No—The only property about which dispute arose has been attached under Sec. 18, of Reg. VI. of 1803.

POORNEAH. No—On apprehension of an affray, the darogah is ordered to depute burkandoses to prevent a breach of the peace, and the principals are bound over to keep the peace.

BHAGULPORE. No—Owing to the small quantity of cultivated lands and efficiency of the Police.

TIRHOOT. Yes—Of a simple kind. In addition to taking recognizance from the parties to keep the peace, the principals are informed that they will be held personally responsible, if a breach of the peace occur; the *hookumnumeh* to this effect being required to be signed by them, returned to the Magistrate as an evidence that they are aware of what is going on.

DINAJPORE. No—Generally confined to disputes about *hauts* or fisheries. The Zumeendars are warned; and themselves and their Umlah sometimes bound over to keep the peace.

MALDA. No—It is generally sufficient to caution all parties against breaking the peace.

RUNGPORE. No—The Magistrate may easily quell such a disposition by exercise of his judgment in binding the parties to keep the peace.

RAJSHUHAEE. No—The *roobukaree* of Mr. Bury of the 4th November 1834 referred to as adapted to the prevention of affrays, is not sent by the Magistrate.

BUGOORAH. No---The provisions of Regulation IV. of 1825 are enforced.

PURNA. Yes—The parties are bound over in heavy penalties to keep th[illegible] and the darogahs are required, on hearing of an assembly of people for such purpos[illegible] act according to Section 18 of Regulation XX. of 1817; the Joint Magistrate also uses his best endeavors to find out and punish the instigators.

MOORSHEDABAD. No—Far otherwise.

BEERBHOOM. No—

MYMENSING. Yes.—The Magistrate has given the Zumeendars and *lateeals* to understand that they will be held responsible for affrays taking place for their benefit, and likewise ordered the darogahs when fear of a riot exists to proceed as directed by Section 18 of Regulation XX. of 1817, punishing also the head-men and proprietors of villages, for not reporting and endeavoring to prevent tumultuous assemblies and affrays, as required by Clause 10 of Section 21 of Regulation XX. of 1817.

DACCA. No—Sending for the parties who are reported to be about to fight and warning them; in actual cases of affray, punishing heavily the instigators and ringleaders.

FUREEDPORE. Not serious ones—Laying hold of the principal parties for whose benefit the affray is caused, is the mode of suppression used; though it is not stated whether for the purpose of punishment, or for what this imprisonment is inflicted.

SYLHET. No—Arresting persons, collecting fighting men, and punishing them for misdemeanor.

BAKURGUNJ. Making the whole police answerable for the offence—by taking recognizances to keep the peace, or stationing one or two police officers on the spot.

TIPPERAH. No—On report of an expected affray, both parties are bound over to keep the peace.

[illegible]AKOLLEE. No—The provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1828, are ample, if acted up to.

HOOGLEE. No—

BURDWAN. Not received.

BANKORAH. Not received.

24-PERGUNNAHS. Not received.

BARUSET. No—Burkandoses and chokeedars are directed to give notice of illegal assemblies, and the darogahs are authorized to take measures for immediate suppression of them, seizing the parties if necessary.

JESSORE. Not very—On information of probable affray, the darogah or nazir, with as many burkandoses as can be spared, are sent to the spot to apprehend all persons assembled for the purpose of causing a breach of the peace; who are punished under Section 19, of Regulation IX. of 1807. The principals are summoned, and if the personal interference of the Magistrate fail in settling the dispute; Mochulkas are taken under Regulation IV. of 1825, or in disputed boundaries Regulation XV. of 1824, is resorted to.

NUDDEEA. Yes—but not so much so, as might be expected. On collection of any body of armed men, the parties are warned that they, for whose benefit the affary is about to take place, will be held personally responsible.

MIDNAPORE. No—On intimation of a probable affray, the parties are bound over to keep the peace; and the darogah is ordered to apprehend all persons assembled to commit a breach of the peace.

Notorious as is the frequent occurrence of affrays, nearly all the Magistrates agree in pronouncing them of unfrequent occurrence in their several districts; in fact, by these reports, they would only appear to happen in the districts of Tirhoot, Mymensing, and Nuddeea, to any extent. The general mode adopted for their prevention, being apparently binding over all parties to keep the peace, under penalty, on a report being made of the probable occurrence of an affray. In spite however of these reports, it is very certain that affrays in lower Bengal have of late years increased, and nothing has so much tended to add to their number, as the abolition of the salutary rule, which restrained the distance between an established indigo factory, and a proposed new erection. I need only instance the present state of affairs near the town of Nuddeah, where, within the short space of one quarter of a mile, on the banks of a jheel, there are to be found three native and one European factories, all dependant on the same tract of lands for support, and which of course are the cause of constantly recurring affrays. One of these too, belongs to a darogah of the Thannah; nor is this a solitary instance of such a state of things. To this is to be added as a great cause for increase, the loose and vague execution of the laws regarding trespass of cattle, and the injuries done thereby; for I know it to be a fact that darogahs often refuse to impound them for a trespass, and that the Magistrates encourage *their* officers in such refusal, the consequence of which is, the owners are countenanced by the Police in attempting the rescue of cattle so seized, and affrays ensue. Another encouragement to affrays is the supposed want of a clearly defined rule of practice in such cases, the evil consequences

of which, I had occasion to observe in Monghyr; in a case where in expectation of an affray, certain parties, in accordance to the law to that effect, applied to Mr. Battye, the Joint Magistrate, to prevent a breach of the peace: on this petition he caused a reply to be endorsed, stating that he had not the power to interfere until *an actual breach of the peace had occurred;*—this was interpreted as a sanction to their proceedings, an affray followed, with loss of life, as an almost necessary consequence. The dispute was a boundary one, coming under Regulation XLIX. of 1793, and subject to Regulation I. of 1822 and II. of 1823; and the order of Mr. Battye, or of others whereof I have met some few who think like him, appears to me to be in direct opposition to the spirit at least, if not to the letter also, of Section 18 of Regulation XX. of 1817, and Regulation XX. of 1824. What Section 21st, regarding apprehensions of criminals, as referred by the Magistrate of Mymensing; or Section 27th, regarding distraint, mentioned by the Magistrate of Shahabad, has to do with the general subject of consideration, I must confess is not clear to me. It would be well therefore if every Magistrate were definitively instructed on a complaint of expected affray, to call upon the opposing parties, and bind both over to keep the peace for a certain period, under a fixed penalty—and to this I would add a renewal of the old order limiting the confines within which an indigo, or other factory should be erected near to an old established concern.

QUERY NINETEENTH.

How does the union of Collector and Magistrate work in your District. If you have a Deputy and Special Assistant, still the extent of work in both Departments?

PATNA.

This query does not apply to Patna in the Magistrate's opinion.

BEHAR.

The union has been the chief cause of the disordered state of the district in both departments, no one individual can attend to the two duties with satisfaction, or justice. And the Magistrate enumerates the vast accumulation of undisposed cases on his file, when he took charge, in confirmation of this assertion. Mr. J. Reid is Assistant to the Magistrate and Collector, but having both duties to attend to is of little service to the Magistrate.

SHAHABAD

The union is detrimental to both departments, but particularly to the Police. The minds of men are differently constituted, inclining more or less in a particular direction, qualifying them for a corresponding line in the public service, whence some are better fitted for Police, and other for revenue duties; qualifications which are but seldom united is one individual; and hence an union is injurious to one or the other, generally to both.

SARUN. The union must interfere with the proper discharge of either duty. At a distance from the station, any oppression may be exercised with impunity, provided it fall short of such an excess, as may render it worth the injured party's incurring the risk and expense of a long and doubtful journey. It is of the utmost consequence that the undivided attention of the Magistrate be given to the Superintendence of his district.

SURKAR CHAMPARUN. The Joint Magistrate is unable to reply to this query.

POORNEAH. The union has a prejudicial effect upon both offices, it being impossible for one individual to keep down the arrears in both departments; besides depriving the Magistrate of the power of visiting the interior of the District. The *Foujdaree* Department affords full occupation for any officer, with an efficient assistant, and the revenue would require the same.

BHAGULPORE. The union works well in this district.

MONGHYR. Not received.

TIRHOOT. The two duties are too much for one man.

DINAJPORE. The duties are not at variance with each other. But a deputy assistant is required, the Magistrate being at present alone in charge of both.

MALDA. The Joint Magistrate finds the two Departments sufficiently within his control.

RUNGPORE. The offices are separate in this district.

RAJSHUHAEL. The union works badly, no one man being able to attend properly to both departments.

BUGOORAH. The district being small, there is no reason to complain of the union of the offices.

PUBNA. The union is bad in principle—Mr. Yule, the Special Assistant, has ever since the Joint Magistrate took charge, been in the Mofussil, as Commissioner, to give possession of *Dhee Shazadpore* to Dwarkanath Tagore, the auction purchaser of the estate, and also in charge of Thannahs *Shazadpore* and *Raeegunj*; and Mr. Assistant Turnbull conducts the minor duties in both departments,

MOORSHEDABAD. It is bad—the assistant gives only two days to Foujdaree business in the week.

BEERBHOOM. Where there is sufficient assistance the union of the offices would work well on account of the additional experience obtainable.

MYMENSING. The offices are separate.

DACCA. The union works tolerably well, as the Magistrate is assisted by a Joint Magistrate, an assistant with special powers, two Principal Sudder Ameens, a Sudder Ameen, and Mahommedan Law Officer.

FUREEDPORE. The separation of the two offices is much to be desired.

SYLHET. The union is not so objectionable as in other districts.

BAKURGUNJ. The Magistrate is an advocate for the junction of the two offices. To the assistant, with powers of a Joint Magistrate, every description of cases is made over, except those connected with affrays, murders or the apprehension of the organized gangs of burglars and thieves—the assistant as Deputy Collector holds sales, decides summary suits and disposes of miscellaneous work.

TIPPERAH. The union works much the same as in other districts. The Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector is generally in the mofussil engaged in Settlement duties.

NOAKOLLEE. The offices should be disunited.

HOOGLEE. They never were united.

BURDWAN. Not received.

BANKOORAH. Not received.

24-PURGUNNAHS. Not received.

BARUSET. The work in both departments is got through without much difficulty.

JESSORE. The union is very incompatible, and particularly prejudicial to the police.

NUDDEEA. The offices are separated, and should not be united.

MIDNAPORE. The union was prejudicial to both departments, particularly the judicial. The Magistrate is assisted by the Joint-Magistrates and uncovenanted assistant three days in the week each.

The latter portion of this query is not very clearly put, and does not seem to have been perfectly understood by the Magistrates, which, from its indefinite wording is not perhaps very surprising. No remark however appears necessary on the replies to it, as the majority seem to agree in considering the union of the two offices, as injurious as is indeed generally admitted by every one who has bestowed a thought on the subject, and no notice appears to have been taken of the latter part of the question relative to the extent of work in both departments, so as to enable a comparison to be formed.

QUERY TWENTY-THIRD.

Are the Kyed Kulashes and Budmashes compelled to stay at the Thannahs, or Pharees of Zumendaree Kutcherees, to prevent their engaging in crimes at night?

PATNA. No—When released they are made over to the care of the Zumeendar, and directions are given to the Darogah to report their

mode of living from time to time, and if found with no ostensible means, security is demanded from them.

BEHAR. No—When liberated they are generally made over to the owners of their respective villages with orders to report their mode of life, &c. but they mostly migrate to other parts of the country.

SHAHABAD Occasionally—very bad characters are so restrained, but the instances are few, and in the end it acts for their benefit.

SARUN. No—It has been found to afford a pretext to the police for abusing their authority, in seizing persons not bearing a questionable character, who had not the means of gaining an immediate release.

SURKAR CHAMPARUN No—The Zumeendars are held responsible for the good conduct of such characters.

POORNEAH. Yes—Unless they give two respectable sureties for good behaviour and remaining at home at night, and even then they are under the surveillance of the Chokeedars.

BHAGULPORE Yes—

MONGHYR. Not received.

TIRHOOT No—The police must be inefficient where such a practice is necessary; and it would be better to detain characters requiring such a coercion constantly in jail.

DINAJPORE Occasionally—

MALDA No—The treatment of persons designated "Budmashes" is in many instances highly objectionable, it makes up for the inefficiency of the police by trespassing on the liberty of the subject, and opens a source of abuse in the detention and oppression under such a charge, of innocent men.

RUNGPORE. No—They are placed under supervision of the Zumeendaree *Umlah*, *Mundals*, and *Chokeedars*, within whose limits they reside, and any suspicious absence from home, or being out at night is reported to the Magistrate.

RAJSHUHALE. Yes—the worst of them are.

BUGOORAH. Yes—

PUBNA A few of the most notorious, and it has been the practice to place them under charge of the heads of their villages, and the village chokeedars, who report if they are causelessly absent from their homes.

MOORSHEDABAD. Yes—

BEERBHOOM. Yes—but the Magistrate does not approve of such an arrangement.

MYMENSING. Yes—The Zumeendars have been ordered by the present officiating Magistrate, to find a house for those released under clause 6 Section 20 of Regulation XX. of 1817.

DACCA. Yes—If there be no one ready to become security for them, but the rule is not rigidly enforced.

FUREEDPORE. No—Except such *Budmashes* as are of very notoriously dangerous character, who are placed under surveillance of the Zumeendar, or head of the village.

SYLHET. No—It is not necessary.

BACKURGUNJ. No—

TIPPERAH. Yes—Those who are of very notorious character.

NOAKOLLEE. No—Mr. Commissioner Dampier ordered the practice to be discontinued.

HOOGLEE. Yes—And with justice, as it is impossible to preserve the tranquillity of a district without such surveillance.

BURDWAN. Not received.

BANKOORAH. Not received.

24-PURGUNNAHS. Not received.

BARASET. No—But a Magistrate should have the power of placing any notoriously bad character under the surveillance of the Police during the night.

JESSORE. No—Occasionally they are placed under surveillance of the Police, but they are not compelled to sleep in the Thannahs, &c. at night.

NUDDEEA. Yes—As far as practicable.

MIDNAPORE. Yes—As far as regards *Kyd Kolassees*.

It appears that in nine districts, viz. Poorneah, Bhagulpore, Bugoorah, Moorshedabad, Beerbhoom, Mymensing, Hooglee, Nuddeea, and Midnapore all *Kyd Kolassees*, and generally all *Budmashes*, are indiscriminately confined at night; whilst in Shahabad, Rajshuhaee, Pubna, Dacca, and Tipperah the most notorious characters among them are so treated: of the other districts four have not replied to the query, but among the Magistrates who state that it is the custom to confine such persons in their districts, the Magistrate of Beerbhoom expresses his disapproval of the system; whilst in Poorneah, and Dacca their confinement is only contingent on not being able to give security; and the Magistrate of Hooglee says it would be impossible to preserve the tranquillity of a district, without such surveillance; the only argument in favor of which is, expediency in restraining them from the commission of further crime than, it is to be feared, they would commit if at large,—and this in a country, where the average proportion of inhabitants to every police officer, is only 112, which will be a fair ratio of 6 individuals to each habitation, would give not quite 19 houses for the surveillance of one police officer!—in fact there cannot be a stronger proof of the absolute necessity of a total reform from beginning to end, than is evinced in the positive inefficiency of the police, overwhelming as are its numbers, to protect so small

a portion of inhabitants, without resorting to so tyrannical and oppressive an interference with the liberty of the subject, as confining a man, who has fulfilled the measure of punishment awarded to the crime he has committed, for the rest of his life, merely because the police is wretchedly, so miserably, so disreputably disorganized, that one man is incapable of maintaining a surveillance over about one-third of 112 persons (for the rest would be women and children, easily kept in check). To the unparalleled interference this rule creates with the liberty of the subject, is to be added moreover the wide field opened for oppression and extortion, by the nightly confinement of *Kyd Kolassees* and *Budmashes*, for a corrupt Chookeedar, or Police Officer has only to threaten a respectable ryott or other resident within his jurisdiction, with denouncing him as a *budmash* and confining him nightly from his home and family, to extort from him any sum, or conditions in his power to meet,—nay even it may be beyond his power, as to escape such disgrace and oppression, he would gladly part with his last *cowrie* and his last covering.

But viewing it as a measure of expediency;—the corrupting influence of jails is, as at present managed, (I had almost said *mis*-managed, but that truth compels me to confess that they are not even attempted to be managed at all,) in this country, sufficiently known, to need no comment. Besides, as long as there are different degress of experience among thieves, and different degrees of crime, it must be inexpedient for the individual who has committed his first petty theft, perhaps even driven to that by the stern hand of poverty and starvation, to associate with the hardened and experienced robber, inured to crime from his youth up and resorting to it for the gratification of debasing, degrading passions and the enjoyment of vices, not, in his ordinary station of life, within his reach; yet here are public officers, called on in their official capacity, to exert themselves for the suppression of crime, employed actually to compel the association of the young and the old; —the hardened, and, we may surely in some cases hope, the repentant;—the experienced in crime and the novice;—in one confined spot, deprived of the comfort of their families— often perhaps, or punishment has failed in its object, desirous of avoiding such associations in future.* Until forced—compelled by our police system, they gain experience from older hands, and learn to look on crime as a virtue, and to glory in deeds of villainy, seeking to spend their days in idleness and crime, and their nights in gloating over and extolling their evil deeds: such is but a faint picture of the evils resulting from this most oppressive and inexpedient system which I could, but that this report has already extended to so great a length, illustrate with a host of facts; one however must suffice, notoroious in Beerbhoom.—A public officer, who is a ryott of the place, also had, and I believe still has, charge of one of these places, where about one hundred of

* A most curious instance of a desire to quit a career of crime, combining with an ignorant superstition, occurred some time since in the Mulda jail: a *khidmutgar* had been committed more than once for petty pilfering, and being once more detected in the like practices, he ascribed the act to some fatality affecting his fingers, against which his moral courage was unavailing—looking therefore at his hand for some time, and pouring out a torrent of abuse on it for again bringing him into trouble, he finished by cutting off the offending member with one stroke of a *dhow*, or native bill hook.

these *Kyd Kolassees* and *Budmashes* are required nightly to resort, made a large income annually by letting them out to the surdars of *Dakoits* and burglars, to assist in committing such crimes as require numbers, or experienced practised hands—on one occasion too, when he had quarrelled with a neighbour who refused to let him have a large timber, requiring full 25 men to remove, at the price he himself fixed on it—his prisoners were set to work in the night to remove the timber to his own premises, and the owner never received its value.

Open to such abuses therefore—tending as it does to disseminate crime, and lessen the fear of punishment—and in its very mildest feature oppressive in the extreme,—I cannot but hope that the replies to this query, by bringing the subject in proper view to the notice of Government, may cause an immediate cessation of a system abounding with so many, and such serious evils, and which sheds so much disgrace on the alleged merciful rule of the British.

This is the last of the queries, but it is to be regretted that they had not been extended to comprehend a view of the state of the Magistrate's Courts, their Umlah, &c. so as to shew the mode of conducting business after a case has passed the ordeal of the subordinate branches of police, and reached the point for redress and decision; as well as, to take a review of the characters by whom the Magistrate is surrounded, and on whom he has in a great measure to depend, for the view of the case, and the influence of his judgment; for much depends necessarily on the way in which a case is placed before the deciding authority. Another branch of this part of the subject, concerning which there is a great diversity of practice, and much difference of opinion, at the same time that it is, one, materially affecting the people under Magisterial jurisdiction, is the mode and integrity of executing warrants and communicating orders, which being mostly carried on at a distance from the Magistrate's superintendence, are not unfrequently made sources of great oppression towards the people. To this should also have been added, some inquiries regarding the state of the jails; most generally as I have before said mismanaged, and not unfrequently made nests of vice and debauchery. With such additions, and they have been comprised in the inquiries I have made in various parts of Bengal, these queries might have been made to comprise an useful review of every branch of the police of this country. The state of the jails having been made the subject of minute inquiry in another quarter, is of less importance here. But the state of the courts is so corrupt, and has such an important influence on the police, as well as, upon the happiness of the people generally, so overwhelmed too, with work, much of it irrelevant or unnecessary, and concerning which, so little has been brought to the notice of the supreme authority, I consider it of urgent necessity that some inquiries should be made, before any of the contemplated changes, can be efficiently and usefully made in the police system; for it is far better, to delay even the most beneficial alterations for a time, than by hastily

making them, to commence on an incomplete system, which will hereafter require other changes to perfect, or leave an opening to the cavils of the opponents to reform; though even there, I think something has been omitted, inasmuch as the committee for that purpose have not had the advantage of any information from an uninterested eye witness, paying unexpected visits to each; as was done in England by Neild when the prisons were there made objects of inquiry.

I have now finished my labors, and if I have succeeded in placing the matter contained in a voluminous accumulation of records, in a clear and tangible form, I have gained my object; the information conveyed by them is valuable, and in some instances new. I have endeavored often to illustrate it by facts, occurring within my own knowledge, sometimes perhaps they may be deemed common place, but I look on a leaf of facts, to be worth a volume of theories in shewing the true position of things. I have further occasionally shewn what were my own views on various parts of the subject: this portion of the work I tender with diffidence, they are the ideas of but an humble individual of a neglected service, and are submitted with due deference, to those of older and superior officers, wherever they may be at variance with their opinions; they are however the results of much study both of books and men, and I offer nothing that I have not a firm confidence of being able to maintain, so far as my information and experience go, always however open to conviction, and ready to admit an error where satisfactory proof is adduced against the opinions I have formed and advocated.

A word now of myself, to shew that I have not gone lightly or unprepared to the task I undertook. I have now been upwards of ten years in Bengal, I have moved about through various parts of it, never closing my ears to information, however humble its nature, or my mouth to inquiry; observing as far as possible every thing that passed before me, my life as a traveller and an indigo planter, served to make me tolerably well acquainted with the natives, their habits and their customs, in different parts of the presidency; my official duties during a series of years, opened to me the leaves of a wide book of knowledge, of which I neglected not to avail myself, since in case of papers coming before me in the performance of those duties, even for the most simple and common place draft or a takeed, I failed not before commencing my task to make myself master of the case in all its bearings, by patiently perusing every paper connected with it, and to this system I confess myself much—very much indebted, for a large portion of the acquaintance I have gained with this country, relative to many subjects concerning the Education of natives,—the Customs,—the Courts,—the Post Office,—the Revenue,—and the Public—to these sources my love of reading added others both instructive and gratifying.

When offered to be attached to the office of the Superintendent of Police, the active life, the continued call upon the energies, and the opportunity of putting to use the information I had thus accumulated, gave the situation, although not better in a pecuniary

point of view than what I had the immediate prospect of attaining, charms for me where others would have found grounds for objection, or have been appalled by the wandering life, and increased labor of its duties—here too I found a wide field of knowledge open to me—to what advantage I have cultivated it, and what crop I have reaped, these papers will partly shew;—if they meet approval I am satisfied—and remain in hope, that services so ardently and faithfully performed, to the neglect of my own interests, may some day attract the notice of the Government, whose servant I have now been for many years, using my best exertion in every situation I have had the honor to fill, but I certainly must say, to the greatest degree in that of Assistant to the Superintendent of Police, from which I have reaped the least reward, and gathered an abundant crop of anxiety, and disappointed hope.

G. T. F. SPEEDE.

5th February, 1839.

It was intended to have published the foregoing, with other matter, in a separate volume as "Strictures on the Mofussil Police;" but as is usual with most literary attempts in this country, so little encouragement was afforded, that the project was abandoned, and they are now given to the public as addenda to the present more enlarged work. At the same time a large portion having become public records, although without profit, remuneration, or even *thanks* to the writer, it is deemed advisable as a matter of form to publish the accompanying letter from Mr. Deputy Secretary Young, conveying the official permission of the Right Honorable Earl Auckland for their publication.

(No. 1166.)

TO MR. G. T. F. SPEEDE.

SIR,

Judicial Department.

In reply to your letter dated the 9th Instant, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor of Bengal to inform you; that although His Lordship did not think it necessary to assist you by subscribing to your proposed work on the Mofussil Police, he has no objection to your publishing your Notes on your own account.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient humble Servant,
J. H. YOUNG,
Deputy Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Fort William, the 14th July, 1840.